

DC Gazette

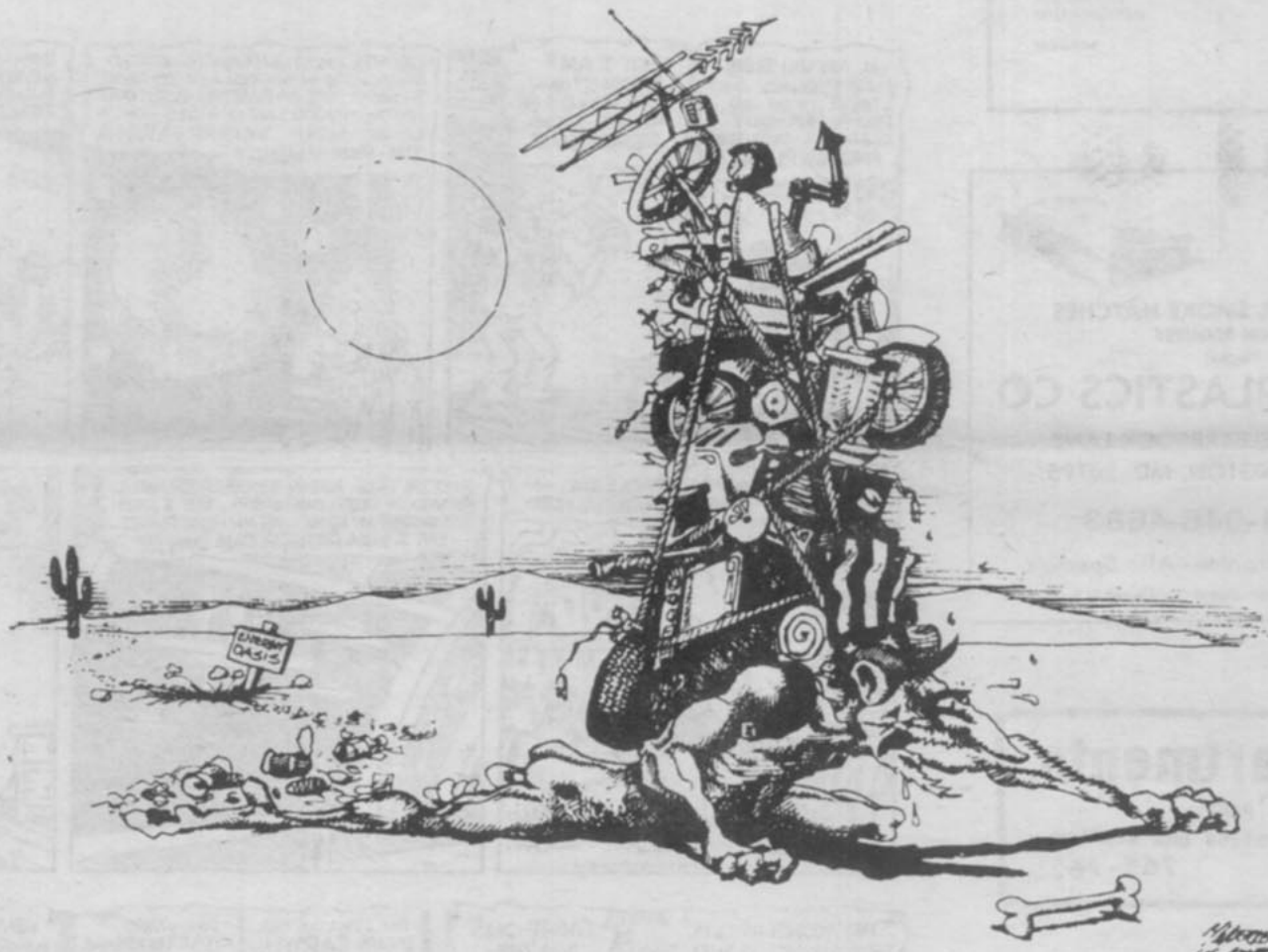
VOL IX NR 6

JUNE-JULY 1978

25 CENTS AT NEWSSTANDS

WALTER WASHINGTON JUMPS IN

THE LONERS: BACK TO THE CLOSET



DOWN THE AVENUE WITH THE WASHINGTON POST

MARILYN IN 800LAND

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DC 20009

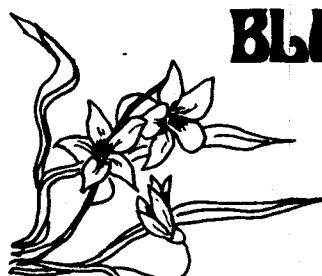
AD RATES

\$2 per column inch
\$22.50 per quarter page
\$45.00 per half page
\$90.00 per page

Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready.

CLASSIFIEDS
10 cents a word

DC GAZETTE
1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2)
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One bedroom, efficiencies and studios
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DC GAZETTE

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer when it is published bimonthly. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads, which should be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, HerSay News Service, and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$5 a year. Single copies are 50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

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CARTOONIST: John Wiebenson
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER: Leonard Cohen

DC GAZETTE
1739 CONNECTICUT AVE NW (#2)
DUPONT CIRCLE, DC 20009

232-5544



APPLE PIE

An American Report

NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

A NEW POLL by Louis Harris and Associates indicates that most Americans distrust big business and that they would rather conserve resources than continually expand the US economy.

The Harris Poll found that 81 percent of those questioned expressed the belief that big business, if left unchecked, "would almost always take advantage of consumers."

The pollsters found that consumers today don't embrace the idea, promoted by business and industry, that the economy must always grow and productivity continually be increased.

According to the survey, by a 59 to 25 percent margin, Americans believed that growth tends to over-produce products, which in turn leads to waste. Sixty-eight percent complained that an emphasis on growth makes the US too dependent on natural resources that are being depleted; and 60 percent stated that growth, as promoted by big business, "Falsely makes people want to acquire more possessions than to enjoy non-material experiences."

Said Harris in summing up his findings: "Basically, our people are far more concerned with the quality of life and far less with the unlimited acquisition of more physical goods and products."

THE FATTED CALF RESTAURANT in the Texas town of Sanger, serves what you might call a priceless meal.

The menu includes such dishes as a ten-ounce filet mignon, a 24-ounce T-bone steak; apple dumplings and homemade cheesecake.

There are, however, no prices on the menu. On top of that, waiters and waitresses work without pay or tips, and there are no cash registers, just jars for money on each table.

Each menu explains that there is "no price on the service" at the Fatted Calf. So customers are asked to put whatever they think the meal is worth in the jar, and if they can't pay, to take what they need out of the jar.

Gary Byers, manager of the unusual steakhouse, said that some people leave a lot, and some people leave without putting out even a thin dime; but he adds "It all seems to balance out."

FORMER Pentagon researcher Daniel Ellsberg claims that the US Defense Department once adopted an ultra-secret contingency plan for the simultaneous dropping of hydrogen bombs on every major city in the Soviet Union, China and other communist nations.

NOTICE: This is the first of our two summer bimonthly issues. The next issue will appear around the first of August.

FREE PARKING FOR ACTIVISTS

THE GAZETTE WILL RUN FREE ads for non-profit action groups on a space available basis. The ads may be submitted in one of two forms:

1. Type the ad (with a good carbon ribbon) or use a black pentel pen. Copy may be no wider than 2 1/2" and no longer than 3". Single-space. Typing the ad vertically on a 3x5 file card is a good way to do this.

2. You may prepare your own camera-ready ad 3x3 or smaller.

We occasionally have space to run larger ads but you should always submit a smaller ad with it to make sure your message gets in.

Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW DC 20009

If you want us to type your copy the price is \$1 for the first 20 words and 5¢ a word thereafter.

CLASSIFIED

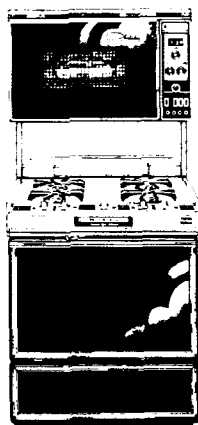
CLASSIFIED ADS: 10¢ a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW (#2) DC 20009

A new "no pilot" gas range uses up to 30% less gas.

Many new gas ranges feature totally automatic ignition—no pilot lights for top burners or oven.

And models with new convection ovens use about half as much gas as traditional pilot-burning types. All foods cook faster.

Of course, you'll



find work-saving convenience features, too. Like continuous-clean ovens, low temperature oven control, digital clocks and programmed cooking.

All good reasons to see the new gas ranges at your gas appliance dealer. Remember—the less gas you use, the more money you save.

Washington Gas

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

'67 VALIANT, not running, looks good, \$300 or offer. 338-4640 evenings.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER seeks employment evening and/or weekend hours; will also work per contract basis in my home. (703) 430-9654.

from: Dare to Struggle Music, c/o 1601 E. 14 Ave, Apt. #8, Denver, Colo 80218.

Dare to Struggle Music has released a 45 rpm record of Coors Brewery Strike Songs. The two songs—"Ballad of Joe Coors" and "Coors' Brewery" have lyrics, vocal and guitar by Kathy Kahn, backed by Danny McMahan on guitar and the "Strike Force Chorus." Price: \$2.00.

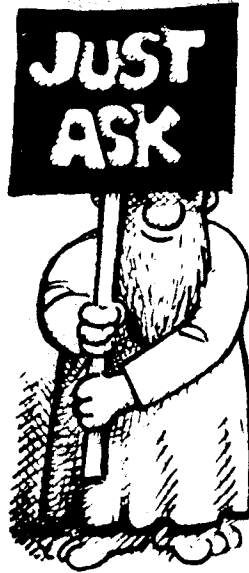
Radio Station WYSO will hold a four day radio seminar—"Another Perspective: Alternatives in Radio Journalism and Creative Culture"—August 4-7 at Antioch College. For information on registration and their seminar schedule, write to WYSO or call (513) 864-2022.

Ellsberg says that some Pentagon planners referred to the plan as "Wargasm." The former Pentagon Papers defendant claims that the plan — reportedly drawn up by the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Eisenhower administration — was so secret that not even the President was aware of it.

Ellsberg states that the technical name for "Wargasm" was the "Strategic Integrated Operational Plan" — or "SIOP" for short. He says he was the first person to inform President Kennedy and former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara of the existence of "SIOP." Says Ellsberg: "Kennedy and McNamara were horrified."

Ellsberg claims that until he revealed the existence of the "SIOP" scenario, President Kennedy had erroneously assumed he could — in a dire emergency — launch nuclear weapons against a nation such as the Soviet Union without automatically bombing others, including China. Kennedy is reported to have eventually changed the "SIOP" plan.

Ellsberg says of his Pentagon experiences: "I was in a unique place with unique information and it was revealed to me that humans are not to be trusted with nuclear weapons."



WATCH FOR beer companies to try to cash in the running boom. A number of running doctors have been boosting beer as an ideal replacement fluid for dehydrate runners. Dr. Thomas Bassler says he always downs a beer every six miles. . . . THE NEW YORK TIMES, champion of the First Amendment, has rejected an ad promoting the theme: "Don't Buy Books by Crooks or Unindicted Coconspirators." The Times says it's not in good taste.

THOSE WHO FOUND THE DEBATE about how many jets we should send to whom in the Middle East in the name of peace a little bizarre may be interested in the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy," which pointed out recently that despite JC's promises to reduce arms sales, military exports this year are expected to reach an all-time high of \$13 billion. The group, which includes the International Longshoreman's Union and the United Methodist and United Presbyterian Church, thinks we should reduce the amount to \$8 billion this year for starters and that all arms sales over \$100 million should be approved by an affirmative vote of Congress. The coalition can be reached in DC at 202-546-8400.

DESIGNER Richard Mauro is out with what is being called "punk furniture."

Mauro's design collection boasts such pieces as a mat made of baby bottle nipples; a clear vinyl sofa stuffed with old newspapers; a chair consisting of 150-yard-long industrial zippers sewn in concentric circles; a big cushion covered with safety pins; and a quilted canvas chair-bag filled with pieces of broken dishes which crumble the more you sit on the chair.

Mauro is asking a fat \$500 for the nipple mat and \$2,500 for the zipper chair.

Mauro says his pieces are available only by commission and take one month to be delivered. Mauro can be reached at (212) 237-1147.

GALLUP reports that barely half of the nation's high schoolers can correctly name the date that Columbus landed in America. . . . THERE ARE NOW 50 women commercial pilots in the US, up from none six years ago. There are about 30,000 commercial pilots overall. . . . EIGHT HUNDRED women are working as coal miners says Coal Age Magazine.

WITCHES IN ENGLAND are seeking legislation to protect them from discrimination. They want Parliament to extend the race relations act to cover witches. . . . THE ACLU is trying to force a Saint Gabriel, La., jail warden to cease her efforts to convert women prisoners. A press account had accused the warden of trying to exorcise a prisoner. . . . THE WORLD IS NOW spending nearly a million dollars a minute on weapons says the Stockholm International Peace Institute. . . . A TWO YEAR study by Indiana University researchers says today's children read better than their parents did 30 years ago.

ONE OF THE SEMI-FINALISTS in the Ohio Secretary of the Year contest is Les Krambeal. . . . WHEN lawmakers planning to join Carter on a trip to Colorado got a memo advising them to wear business suits, Congressman Pat Shroeder took to the floor of the House to complain that she didn't even own one. . . . TO HELP PROMOTE Sun Day, Robyn Boyer, a UCal graduate student, packed a solar reflector into her car to use in a TV demonstration on solar energy. She left the car for awhile, then returned to find fire-

THE SHIRTWORKS



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bruce

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Printed
By Hand

canvas
bags

SAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON THE SALE OF YOUR DC HOME!

OUR SALES COMMISSIONS START
AS LOW AS 1% INSTEAD OF THE
CUSTOMARY 6%.

ROCK CREEK REALTY
654-3034

fighters with hoses shoveling charred debris out of her burned-up auto.

HUD CONDUCTED A STUDY last summer in which 300 blacks and 300 whites shopped for the same homes in 40 metropolitan areas across the US. The results: blacks had a 75% percent chance of encountering discrimination if they looked at four houses for rent and a 62% chance of being discriminated against if they looked at four houses for sale. Worst discrimination was in the North Central areas of the country, in cities such as Akron, Detroit and Indianapolis.

THE LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER quotes a White House aide as saying that the Marijuana-paraquat issue produced ten times as many phone calls to the President "as we've had on anything else, even the Panama Canal."TEXACO has put pressure on Bob Hope to lay off the Anita Bryant jokes because, as Hope explains, "customers start tearing up their credit cards and send them back."

A STUDY of children who had attended pre-school programs has found that kids in such programs may have a better chance of getting into college, getting jobs and earning higher wages throughout their lifetimes than kids who don't.

The study was conducted by Doctor David Weikart on 123 black, economically and educationally disadvantaged Ypsilanti, Michigan, students.

Half of the group studied attended pre-school at ages three and four; the other students entered school at the usual kindergarten age.

Doctor Weikart found that 83 percent of the pre-school groups performed on at least average levels during early grade school years, compared with 62 percent of the other group.

Several of the pre-school students are now in college, whereas none of the others are. None of the pre-school students are on welfare, as compared to 10 percent of those in the other group.

Doctor Weikart stated that pre-school paid for itself because the children required fewer special programs in their formal school years to help them keep up with other students.

SHOW BUSINESS

A LAS VEGAS couple has been indicted by a Clark County Grand Jury for allegedly having sex on a lawn in front of a group of children on Easter Sunday afternoon.

Bail was set for Fred Defillippo and Kelly Sandow at \$100 apiece after Las Vegas police arrested the couple and charged them with open or gross lewdness.

Observers said after the pair, a casino dealer and a cocktail waitress, completed the act, the children who had gathered to watch applauded. The couple then reportedly bowed to their young audience, put on their clothes and walked away.

The Las Vegas District Attor-

ey's office had originally refused to press charges against the couple, sending their files back to police with a notation saying the case "lacks jury appeal."

A CANADIAN DAREDEVIL has announced plans to put Evel Knievel to shame by successfully jumping the Snake River in Idaho in his custom-built jet-powered Lincoln Continental.

Daredevil Ken Carter has been in Idaho for the past several months, trying to convince local officials to let him proceed with the quarter-mile jump and preparing for his planned take-off. Carter says his two-engine jet-powered Lincoln will reach a take-off speed of 300 miles an hour, and should crash safely on the other side into a pyramid of 10,000 bails of straw.

The Snake River jump, he stresses, is just for practice: his real goal, he says, is to jump his jet-powered car from Canada across the



St. Lawrence Seaway, into the United States, a distance of one mile. When he finishes that leap, he says Billy Carter has agreed to be there to present him with his American citizenship papers.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT

[WHILE WE STILL CAN]

GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP is about to take a great leap forward.

A government agency—The Federal Communications Commission—believes it has the right to act as our parents and restrict the broadcast of certain words at times when children just might be listening—*regardless of any literary, artistic, or social value or the fact that this could seriously limit free expression in the broadcast medium.*

The FCC acted after WBAI—a listener sponsored Pacifica radio station in New York—broadcast a monologue by comedian George Carlin about "seven words you can't say on TV" which satirizes how people get uptight by the use of certain words.

Their mailbox clogged with one letter of complaint, the FCC ruled Pacifica to be in violation of the Federal Communications Act. In deciding that a government agency has the right to tell broadcasters what they can or cannot say on the air, they essentially trampled all over the First Amendment.

When Pacifica challenged this ruling, a U.S. Court of Appeals held that the FCC had overstepped its authority in banning "indecent language" at certain hours and that it had wrongly entered into "the forbidden realm of censorship."

Undaunted, the FCC has now taken the "Carlin Case" to the Supreme Court which will consider this critically important constitutional question: *Do all First Amendment rights traditionally enjoyed by free press also extend to radio and television?*

Opposing the FCC—standing up for the right to broadcast a free flow of in-

formation and your right to hear it—is Pacifica radio. Broadcasting for thirty-two years, Pacifica is known as "First Amendment Radio," unrestricted by advertisers and committed to the presentation of all points of view.

What happens in the Carlin Case will not only affect Pacifica but the entire broadcast industry as well. And this, of course, affects YOU.

It's been a tough and expensive battle for us. . . . Now we're asking for your help. Your contribution to the Pacifica First Amendment Fund will help insure that one of our most basic freedoms—the freedom of speech—will remain intact. And, it will help us keep on broadcasting words that the government would rather not hear.

BANNED?

The Bible
Aristophanes
Shakespeare
Jonathan Swift
Ernest Hemingway
Dylan Thomas
Chaucer
Margaret Mead
George Orwell
Lord Byron
The Nixon/Watergate Tapes

THE PACIFICA FOUNDATION
(a non-profit California Corporation)
WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, N.Y.
KPFA 94.1 FM, Berkeley, CA
KPFT 90.1 FM, Houston, Texas
WPFW 89.3 FM, Washington, D.C.
KPFK 90.7 FM, Los Angeles, CA
KPFB 89.3 FM, Berkeley, CA

THIS COUPON FIGHTS CENSORSHIP

YES! I want to help save the public airwaves from the obscenity of government control. Here's my tax deductible contribution of

_____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ \$ other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

To: THE PACIFICA FIRST AMENDMENT FUND
c/o Pacifica Foundation/Box 8455/Universal City, CA 91608

A RECENT SURVEY indicates that "rock oriented" radio stations are continuing to increase the size of their listening audiences apparently at the expense of stations programming so-called "middle of the road" and "beautiful" music.

The survey by the McGavren-Guild Advertising Agency indicates that rock radio has nearly doubled its share of the American listening audience since 1973.

Last year alone, according to the survey, the audiences of rock stations in the US grew by more than 33 percent. So-called "middle of the road" and "beautiful" music stations are reported to have lost 22 percent of their audiences in recent years.

One unexpected finding of the study was that all-news radio stations are attracting more teenaged listeners to their audiences than ever before.



ECOCLIPS

THE yearly report card on the quality of the environment in America has been issued, and the overall grade has dropped.

The National Wildlife Federation says that of the seven natural resources which are graded by experts each year, only one — the forests — improved their quality during 1977. Air quality was ranked the same as in 1976, but the quality of the other five resources — water, minerals, wildlife, living space and soil — are all reported to have declined.

The Federation's panel of consultants gives from zero to 100 points in each category, with the possibility of a perfect score of 700.

1977's final grade was 343 points or four points below the environmental quality index of a year earlier. The latest index represents a decline of 52 points from the index first published in 1969.

LEADERS of a dozen major environmental and consumer groups are accusing Jimmy Carter of selling out to the nuclear and petroleum industries.

The 12 organizations — including Ralph Nader's Critical Mass, the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth — allege that Carter has double-crossed his environmental supporters on major energy issues.

The groups charge that Carter promised during the campaign to use nuclear power only as a last resort, to press for the development of solar energy and other renewable fuels, and to give energy conservation top priority.

Instead, according to the 12 organizations, Carter has been behaving as if he has been captured by the energy industry and by his energy secretary James Schlesinger.

The groups contend that Carter has been pushing blindly ahead with nuclear energy, with the development of polluting synthetic fuels, and with the deregulation of natural gas, without first solving the atomic waste problem.

The leaders of these groups which supported Carter during the 1976 campaign say they will abandon him in 1980 unless he changes his policies.

A TWO-YEAR STUDY by researchers working for the Swedish government has concluded that by the year 2015, Sweden could be wholly capable of meeting its energy needs by using only domestic and renewable energy sources.

The study says that such things as methanol, wood, electricity produced by wind power and fuel cells and the large scale development of solar energy would enable Sweden to meet its energy requirements without using nuclear power.

The study concludes that a "solar Sweden" would not necessarily be a low energy society. It predicts, in fact, that the production of goods and services could be twice the present day volume without lowering either the quality of goods manufactured, or the standard of living of Swedes.

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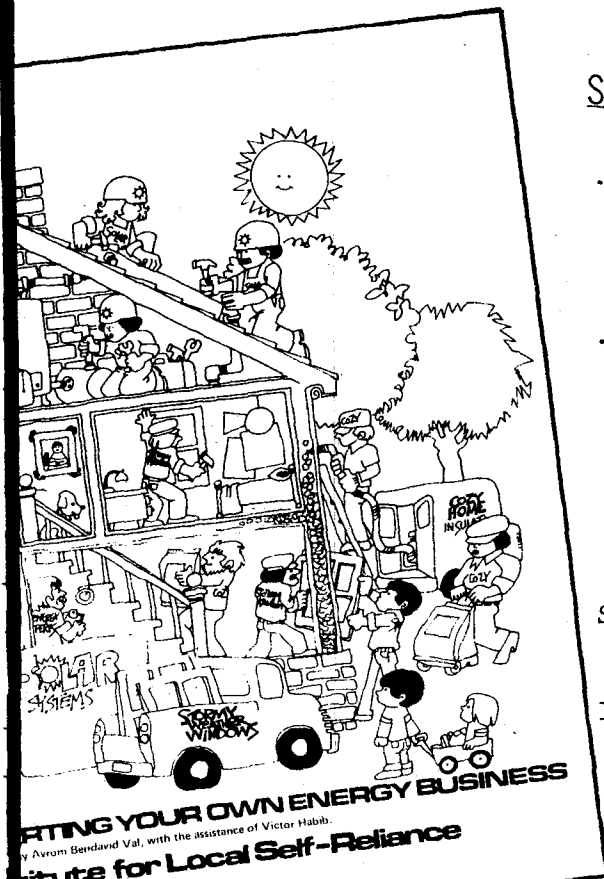
DCG

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50 pages, illustrated
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Washington D.C. 20009

\$4.00



WOMEN & MEN

MEMBERS of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists are reporting that the sexual revolution may be coming to a crashing halt as more and more Americans become "asexual".

According to Shirley Zussman, vice president of the Association, some members report that "A lack of desire" seems to be the prime problem with at least 50 percent of their patients. She said in the past, the most prevalent complaints were premature ejaculation, impotence and failure to achieve orgasm.

And the asexual revolution is not just hitting the middle-aged and older folks, according to Zussman. She reports that more and more of young people, females and males in their late 20's and early 30's, are choosing to be asexual.

Zussman says that members of what are now being called the "chastity underground" say asexuality offers a comforting antidote to such contemporary ills as traumatic divorces or affairs, random sex and the pressure to "score" — in bed as well as on the job.

A GROUP of cadets at the Redwoods Center Police Training Academy in northern California has had a sobering exercise in rape consciousness-raising.

Human Behavior magazine reports that California State University professors Jack Shaffer and Vincent Skotko asked 61 cadets to imagine themselves being raped. The professors reportedly set a scenario in a darkened classroom and then graphically described the moments leading up to the imagined rape, instructing each cadet to imagine he was being overpowered, tied up, beaten and then raped several times by three assailants.

After the exercise, the professors asked for anonymous written statements from the students. Human Behavior says that nearly half of the cadets said if they had been the victims of such a rape, they would not report the incident, fearing they would not be believed or that their reputations would be ruined. Other police trainees said they would want to kill or mutilate the rapist.

The professors reported that the same rage and shame experienced by actual rape victims was experienced by the cadets who imagined themselves being raped.

As a result, the professors added, the cadets showed increased sensitivity when role-playing an interview with a female officer posing as a rape victim. The cadets also reportedly stopped joking about rape.

THIS warning is being voiced by an Oregon University environmental researcher, Doctor William Morton, who says the results of a 15-year study in Lane County, Oregon, indicate that housewives have a much greater chance of developing cancer than do women who work outside the home.

Doctor Morton, head of the Division of Environmental Medicine, says the cancer death rate among housewives was 57 percent higher than that of the general female population, and 154 percent higher than the rate for women who worked outside the home.

The study was conducted in Lane County, Oregon, on the basis of Census Bureau figures and death certificates from 1958 to 1972. Doctor Morton surveyed a population of 55,000 women between the ages of 16 and 64. More than half the women were housewives.

The doctor speculated that the high cancer rate might have been caused by long-term exposure to certain kinds of chemicals used in household products. He said a similar study would be conducted in other Oregon counties to see if the results can be corroborated.

A VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY study reports that feminists appear to have better sex lives than more traditional women.

The study, published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, said that 50 women were interviewed by researchers, 24 of whom identified themselves as feminists and 26 who said they were "traditionally oriented" women.

The women were between the ages of 21 and 39 and had completed at least one year of college.

According to Doctor Virginia Abernathy, who conducted the study,

feminists appear to be "sexually more adventurous" and to get more sexual satisfaction than the more traditional women.

The study found that the more traditional women are less satisfied with their mates than feminists, but that feminists tended to end their first marriages twice as often as

other women when they found it unsatisfactory.

The study also found that feminists tended to have a higher education, to come from higher socio-economic backgrounds, and were more likely than other women to have equal power relationships with their mates.

THE OTHER GOVERNMENT

ATTORNEY WILLIAM KUNSTLER says that a four-day probe by a private investigator has convinced him that former FBI Assistant Director William Sullivan was murdered — and not accidentally killed — last year.

Sullivan was shot to death last November 9th near Lisbon, New Hampshire, in what was described by authorities as a deer hunting accident.

Kunstler, however, contends that Sullivan was murdered because of his willingness to testify against other FBI executives alleged to have authorized illegal break-ins.

Kunstler says that a private investigator he has been working with has uncovered a number of alleged discrepancies in the official version as to how Sullivan died.

The official version is that a young hunter accidentally shot the former FBI Assistant Director, mistaking him for a deer, as Sullivan approached the hunter over a small hill.

Kunstler claims his investigator has determined that Sullivan was shot in the back, not in the front, a finding which would be inconsistent with Sullivan approaching the hunter.

Kunstler adds that an investigation of the scene of the shooting indicates it would be nearly impossible to mistake a man for a deer. Kunstler says that there was a clear, unhindered view between the killer and Sullivan, and that the weapon had a telescopic sight, which would have made it even more difficult for a hunter to mistake Sullivan for a deer.

Kunstler contends that Sullivan was killed after he agreed to testify against other highly-placed FBI officials in court, and after he had appeared as the principal witness against them at a Washington DC Grand Jury.

AN ADMITTED FBI informer, Jacques Srouji, has refused to answer a number of key questions in the Karen Silkwood case on the grounds her answers might threaten national security.

Srouji was testifying in pre-trial hearings in the \$160,000 damage and conspiracy suit filed by the family of Karen Silkwood, a former nuclear worker at the Kerr McGee atomic facility in Crescent City, Oklahoma. Srouji is the author of a pro-nuclear book called Critical Mass which criticizes Silkwood's involvement in nuclear investigations.

Silkwood was killed in a bizarre 1974 car accident while she was driving to meet with a New York Times reporter about alleged safety problems at the Kerr McGee plant. Her family, her union, and a number of investigators looking into the case have alleged she may have been murdered.

According to Silkwood's attorney, Dan Sheehan, Srouji was asked before

the US District Court Judge Frank Thies whether she had been directed by an intelligence agency to write a book highly critical of Silkwood; whether she knew if Karen Silkwood had been murdered, and who did it; and about her contacts with FBI agents regarding the Silkwood case.

On each and every occasion, the lawyer says, Srouji, at the advice of her FBI attorneys, refused to answer the questions on national security grounds.

Sheehan says, however, that Srouji, under questioning, told the court that her book, Critical Mass, was in fact edited by a man who admitted he was an agent of the CIA.

Sheehan also says that at one point in the proceedings, when Srouji was asked to tell the court why she was in Oklahoma gathering data on the Silkwood case, attorneys for the FBI asked Judge Frank Thies for a hearing behind closed doors in his chambers. After two and one-half hours, the judge came out and announced that Srouji would not have to answer the questions:

"Well, Mister Sheehan, you can continue to understand that (that information) is sinister. . .and it is secret. . .the information that I've been given should never see the light of day."

MIND AND BODY

A NEW British study has found that people who drink a couple of cocktails at lunch may be better off by cancelling their food orders and sticking to their drinking.

Professor Vincent Marks at the University of Surrey says he has discovered that alcohol in drinks combines with carbohydrates in foods to produce serious down periods several hours later.

Professor Marks, writing in the Bulletin of the British Nutritional Foundation, warns that mixing eating and drinking can lead to a disability known as "hypoglycemia."

He says that about two-and-a-half hours after a person has mixed a few beers with several pieces of bread, that person is apt to be overcome by fatigue, lose the ability to concentrate, commit mental errors and suffer lapse in judgement. If the person had avoided the bread, the professor says, most of the symptoms would have been avoided.

According to the professor, people who drink the same quantities of alcohol, but who avoid carbohydrates or sugar, will be much more alert on the job a few hours later.

THE Continental Bakeries, maker of such goodies as Wonder Bread and Hostess Twinkies, has announced that

the popularity of white bread is on the wane.

The company says its white bread sales have fallen off 4.4 percent over the last five years.

Continental's sales for non-white breads, including whole-grain products, have leaped by nearly 70 percent over the same five years.

A LOS ANGELES psychiatrist claims he has successfully treated acne patients by having them stop believing they are being picked on.

Doctor W.C. Eller Broek of the Metropolitan State Hospital says he noted that a high percentage of acne patients he interviewed tended to interpret their unpleasant experiences as signs of being intentionally victimized by others.

Doctor Broek claims that in a test treatment involving 38 patients suffering from the skin disease, he successfully treated 30 of them simply by changing their attitudes about what the world was doing to them. He says his 80 percent cure rate compares favorably with the 50 percent success rate reported by dermatologists.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL says that the rising costs of medical benefits, paid by corporations are forcing them to try to prevent illnesses among their employees by encouraging good health.

As a result, physical fitness is now all the rage with the "Fortune 500."

The newspaper says that Time, Incorporated, pays 80 percent of the fees for its employees over age 35 to join a jogging and exercise club in New York City. Pepsico corporation's plant in Purchase, New York, reportedly features jogging tracks, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, a football field and a baseball diamond.

At Sandy, Utah, Deseret Pharmaceuticals pays cash incentives to employees who diet and lose weight.

"Everyone is diet and health conscious," The Journal quotes one executive as saying. The executive added that it doesn't cost anything to take colleagues out to lunch anymore. . .since all they are eating is lettuce.

PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE suggests that cancer may become one of America's top political issues in the near future.

Even now, the potential "cancer constituency" is vast. The disease, strikes one in every four Americans and kills almost 400,000 annually.

PNS says that the scientific community now accepts the belief that up to 90 percent of human cancer is environmentally caused, and is not, as was formerly thought, the result of a virus that could be isolated and cured.

According to one labor leader, Tony Mazzocchi, "If 90 percent is environmentally induced, than 90 percent could be prevented." Mazzocchi is the Vice President of the 200,000-member oil, chemical and atomic workers union.



CITY VOICES

KATHLEEN EAGER IS A 71-year-old resident of the Essex Apartments on upper Connecticut Avenue, which is undergoing condominium conversion. She recently spoke to her neighborhood commission and told what conversion is like from the inside. Here is what she said:

There are four words I dislike when put together. They are: Buy or get out. That's what the notice means in your mail box, announcing your apartment building has been sold for conversion to a condominium. What does it matter that suddenly a hundred or so people have a traumatic problem imposed on them by the developer who speculates not only in real estate but also in people's lives. He develops anguish and despair, especially among the elderly. There is a choice but it has a price tag. Buy the apartment you have been renting. This is no time for old people to buy real estate. Most of them are living on fixed incomes. Their savings are ear-marked for illnesses that are already weakening them or are sure to come later.

As for myself, this is the second time in four years I've been notified to move. Four years ago, it cost \$500 to move across the street. There were many vacations cancelled that summer. But this time I'm not moving. I'm 4 years older - 71 - and it takes a lot of stamina to look for an apartment. Could I find one in a familiar neighborhood or anywhere else? How long before the developer would be after my newly found home? No. I am saving my strength - staying near my friends and doctor because I have cancer. But to stay at the Essex means I must take half my nursing fund and buy brick and mortar. There is nothing unique in my case.

In 1975, The National Council of Senior Citizens undertook a survey "of 97 renters who had moved from 10 randomly selected converted buildings in the District. The survey showed that 92% found it harder to see their families after moving, 81% found it harder to get to church, and 70% found it harder to see their doctor. 45% experienced ill health effects which were more particularly described as depression, mental distress and great anxiety. Several felt the continuing fear that their new building would go condominium and again they would be uprooted." Old people and old trees cannot be uprooted without dying.

According to Dr. Martin Seligman in studies at the National Institute of Mental Health: "Elderly persons who are forced to move lose control of their lives. Deterioration of mind and body sets in. Then comes a deep depression which replaces the will to live." Many commit suicide and many suicides go unreported. The doctor writes on the death certificate - suicide - cause: unknown. But some people in the building know the cause. One elderly woman in our building attempted suicide but was rescued in time to face the turmoil of what to do - where to go - once more. These are "The Golden years," yet there are more suicides among the elderly than any other group in America.

We all grow old - so old and young must help each other. What you young men and women do today will be the foundation of your old age tomorrow. Write the Mayor and City Council how you feel about conversions, the treatment of the elderly. I have sent the Mayor and Council two amendments to help the elderly. They write back: Thank you for your thoughtful letter - yours sincerely. A few persons can't do it all. Bombard them with letters, phone calls, interviews. Let them know you know.

Perhaps Dylan Thomas said it best, "Do not go gentle into that good night - old age should burn and rage at close of day - rage, rage against the dying of the light!"

DOWN THE AVENUE WITH THE WASHINGTON POST

DON LIEF

REMEMBER THE ORIGINAL Pennsylvania Avenue plan? It was unveiled on Memorial Day 1964, the product of a blue-ribbon council appointed by President Kennedy after his inauguration. The plan's enormity suggested that it would be financially sponsored by the concrete, cement, structural steel and wrecking industries. Not true. It was an inevitable product of established names ignoring a community. Not surprisingly, the plan drew lots of media hope, even in those long-ago days.

Like so much in Washington these days, those now pushing the plan have been reborn. No more talk about razing the Washington and Willard Hotels, Kann's or the Old Post Office Building. If and when the National Press Building and National Theatre are knocked down, it won't be cheered as a sign that the plan has been vindicated.

Instead, there is much more talk about the importance of community inputs to humanize the plan's pomposity. As recently as last January, the Washington Post's writer Wolf von Eckardt noted happily that "the people of this city and the people of this country...balked" at the 1964 plan's version of architectural glory. Von Eckardt gave due credit to many of the actors — businessmen, environmentalists, architects, students and DC Municipal Planning Office.

It wasn't always this way, and that's part of the problem: The Post's coverage of the 1964 plan has been wildly inconsistent, although the issue holds enormous significance for the city's economic base as well as the nation's ceremonial heart. The paper's coverage of the 1964 plan's unveiling — three articles and gobs of pictures and renderings — gave no hint of the trouble to come. The front page story didn't even identify the landmark structures that were deemed expendable.

Thanks to the glacial speed of events, close and regular scrutiny has not been undertaken compared to, say, the many specific decisions involved in the convention center proposal. The Post, instead, has gradually and quietly disengaged from solid support to modest reservations to outright criticism of the 1964 plan.

If past actions by major institutions — whether CIA, local governments or multinational corporations — never seem to die in the Post's editors' industrious (and rightful) quest for accountability, the same goal of "moral consistency" — with credit to Daniel Berrigan — might apply here. Consider the record: The paper's first interpretive article on the plan made no bones about the desirability of its features, architecturally and conceptually. The mission of the council, it said, was "to propose how the symbolic axis between the Capitol and the White House could be made impressive and inspiring — and also friendly, bustling and inviting. The Council has done just that."

The huge National Square — least viable element in the entire plan — received solid support: "The stunner in the scheme is the proposed 'National Square' on the Avenue's western end. . . At first, and out of context, the idea of so huge an open expanse so close to the monumental expanse of the Mall seemed staggering. But the Council's reasoning and the square's visual impact in the scheme as a whole is most persuasive." And, thus, "It

is imperative that the unity of this design not be lost, no matter how long it might take to implement it. . ."

In December 1964, a Post article recognized that disagreements had arisen about the size of the square and the lack of residential buildings, but no mention was made of the destruction of old buildings. Nevertheless, the plan "should be considered the physical symbol of the Great Society."

In January 1965, the Post's Outlook section ran a long article by council chairman Nathaniel Owings who suggested that "perhaps criticism has been too restrained," with only fellow architect Louis de Justement, having offered "a detailed critique." Obviously the concerns that had been expressed by Sen. Frank Lausche, Commissioner Walter Tobriner, planner Morton Hoppenfeld, the Federation of Citizens Associations and others were not sufficiently "detailed" to be accredited.

Or perhaps Mr. Owings did not read the Star where more regular coverage of the community was to be found.

Things were changing, however, and by March 1970 a Post article explicitly noted the "near universal lack of enthusiasm for the Grand Pennsylvania Avenue plan." Now was "not the time for more establishment monumentality and monotony." Instead, renovation and creative use of the Old Post Office Building was urged, with the tower serving as "a good place from which to thumb one's nose at the planners and improvers who would tear down lovely old buildings for the grandiose monotony." Even here, there was no pointing to the architects, although half the council members were in fact members of that distinguished profession, not planners or social engineers.

By early 1974, a Post column could openly describe the plan as "pompous Beaux Arts style..." and jeer that "the brown-ink sketches illustrating it might perhaps have been done to please Napoleon III."

Not only the Post has been reborn on the subject of the plan. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a member of the original council, had allegedly warned against "a solid phalanx of office buildings," according to the Post in January 1978. This is the same Moynihan who wrote in the AIA Journal more than a year before the plan's submission to President Johnson that the council would

follow Daniel Burnham's all-too-familiar injunction to "make no little plans." As to his reported reservations at the time, the record shows only once did the council have to vote on a matter of principle. And in March 1965, the Post reported Moynihan, then newly-named by President Johnson to the Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue, would move things along "with a buoyant zest for getting things done."

Indeed, where might one have seriously criticized the 1964 plan? In architectural circles? Consider council member Douglas Haskell, then editor of Architectural Forum, a Time publication. Not only did Forum praise the plan but LIFE, a sister publication also ran an adulatory editorial a week later.

Meanwhile back at the Star, the community was served by consistent coverage, analysis and comment. Clearly unmoved by the plan's glittering trendiness, a Star editorial only three days after its formal unveiling called it pie-in-the-sky planning and a "multi-tiered monstrosity." The square was a "vast and artificial desert." One may challenge the Star's esthetic union card, but not its question asked in June 1976 — not 1978: "Must everything old. . . give way to the wrecker's ball?"

Pennsylvania Avenue will never rank in importance with SALT talks, energy policy, pollution or inflation, but it should serve as an example of the need for several things on the media's part.

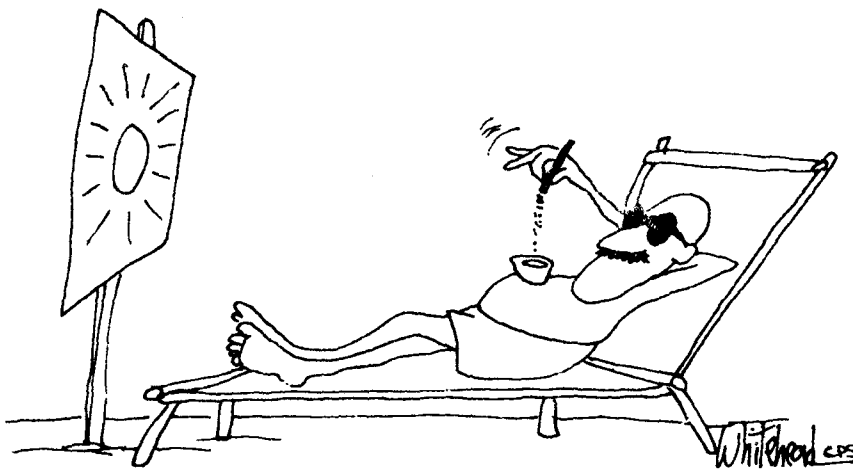
First, local periodicals (not only newspapers) and broadcasters should not confuse the public by mixing their institutional support for a given idea with the facts. Post accounts of the plan have been in news articles, "analyses," and columns. Throughout, there has been little question about where the paper stood at a given time. This type of coloration does much to shape attitudes toward civic design as well as future public and private investments.

Second, media should press harder in follow-up analyses of complex local issues, not only to give exposure to the proposals but also to the underlying problems and, possibly, alternatives.

Third, the media should offer greater access to the community on such continuing issues. Reliance on polling is useful, but it cannot build a record of clear concerns that require official response. The media need not do it alone; much more effort should go into covering the local and metropolitan community when policy is being constructed step by step. Somehow, the story covering an "event" seldom takes these prior steps into account. Letters to the editor and "contrasting points of view" on the tube will never fulfill this obligation.

Finally, when a publication changes its mind about something, it should do it openly, and not rely on readers (like me) with long memories to set the record straight.

DON LIEF is a public affairs consultant and incoming president of the Chevy Chase Citizens Assn. He was the first editor of Nation's Cities and has written for City magazine and the National Journal.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DAVE CLARKE & FRANK SMITH

I HOPE the Gazette will rethink its choice for the First Ward City Council seat, and decide to support Frank Smith, Jr. He has far more gumption as a neighborhood organizer than the incumbent councilman - he will make things happen downtown - and on several issues he is far better than the incumbent.

One of those issues is close to the Gazette's heart. Did you repress the sad memory that Dave Clarke has supported the convention center boondoggle, come hell or highwater? Why he supports it, I can't imagine - it's hardly in the interests of Ward One's people. The Gazette has vigorously and sensibly opposed the center, and it should take an overwhelming weight of evidence on other issues to cancel out Clarke's bad mistake on this one.

But when I weigh Frank Smith vs. Clarke on the other issues too, Smith comes out way ahead on all the other issues as well as the convention center.

The major item in Frank Smith's platform is that as a councilman he will write legislation for a comprehensive housing program to expand home ownership opportunities for the present residents of Ward One. This will be a program to save the economic and ethnic diversity of this area and thus to save our neighborhoods.

What's special about Frank is that he has already begun this kind of work. Through his efforts on Seaton Street he brought to the front pages of our newspapers the issue of evictions of poor people from speculated neighborhoods. Among all the people who now find it fashionable to talk about housing, Frank is the only one who has actually made homeowners out of several low income families and thus given hope to all.

This achievement required a complex set of arrangements with city government, private donors and a local bank. The agreement struck by Frank Smith (as Chairperson of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C) with Perpetual Savings and Loan Association shows Frank's sophisticated understanding of the economics of inner city development. Perpetual agreed to finance the Seaton Street homes, to hire minority workers, and, most importantly, to implement a general policy of making housing loans to low-income residents of this area and to be advised in its loan policy by a neighborhood board. Without the Perpetual agreement, the Seaton Street families would not have been able to purchase their homes.

In contrast, Dave Clarke's inability to get along with the rest of the City Council has made him an isolated representative with a mediocre legislative record. He became isolated by introducing such legislation as his original speculation tax bill, which would have taxed the rehabilitation cost as well as the profits on the sale of a house. That would have ended all rehab work in DC and guaranteed permanent slums. When his fellow councilmembers refused to support the bill he went around the city calling them sell-outs because they would not support his mistake. This soured the rest of the councilmembers on the bill and gave speculators good ammunition with which to organize. Frank Smith and the Anti-speculation Task Force introduced a sensible bill on October 12, 1975, that eventually passed the council.

Seaton Street and Perpetual tell you a lot about Frank Smith. He is tough but knows when to compromise to get the best possible deal. He showed that toughness by facing down the bank and by facing down the speculators on Seaton Street, and he showed shrewdness by negotiating the loan policy agreement which enabled the families to buy their homes.

Frank Smith attended Morehouse College and is now a PhD candidate with the

Union Graduate School. He began his community organizing while he was in college in the early sixties - registering voters in Atlanta. That was when he met Martin Luther King and Andy Young. That was when he learned to pull together little bits and pieces of resources to make things happen - like borrowing Andy Young's old station wagon to drive voters to the courthouse in Atlanta. Then Frank spent several years in Mississippi in the civil rights movement, where he worked with a group of low-income tenant farmers who were living in tents because they were evicted from a plantation. Frank developed a self-help housing program to help them build homes. He helped organize their tent-in at Lafayette Park, an idea that became the seed of the Poor People's Campaign.

In 1968 Frank moved to Washington and immediately started to work with a group of food buying clubs to create the Martin Luther King Food Stores. But he also understood the importance of off-street politics. As Director of the Fund for Education and Community Development he funded several economic development projects in DC from 1967 to 1974. He has been Chairperson of the Adams Morgan Organization and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

Frank Smith has been my co-worker and colleague since 1964. If some might think this biases me in his favor they are correct. The bias arises from experience.

Frank Smith has lived an extraordinary mix of grass-roots organizing and negotiating with Establishment people and institutions. Ward One needs somebody like that in the council.

ARTHUR WASKOW

CLARKE & THE CENTER

THE DC Gazette has endorsed David Clarke for re-election to the DC City council from Ward 1.

The DC Gazette, long the city's leading critic of the DC convention center - and the city's most formidable opponent of that Board of Trade project - noted in its endorsement that: "He", David Clarke, "gets a goose egg on the convention center but otherwise he's fine."

Of David Clarke's opponent, the DC Gazette says: "He is opposed by Frank Smith, long-time Adams Morgan activist, who is fully qualified and would undoubtedly make a fine councilmember as well." The DC Gazette fails to note that Frank Smith is as critical

of the DC convention center as the DC Gazette. What has happened to the DC Gazette's concern about the convention center?

David Clarke was, and is, an uncritical, loyal supporter of the DC convention center.

Congressman Walter Fauntroy's January 1978 newsletter reported on the results of a poll sent out to 100,000 District citizens. Question No. 5 was: "Do you favor the use of public money to construct a convention center in the District?" The replies as reported by Congressman Fauntroy were as follows: "1. yes... 36 percent; 2. No... 61 percent; 3. Undecided... 2 percent."

There is no question that these results of the Fauntroy Poll were known to David Clarke. Clarke has not said one word in Ward 1 about his support of the \$110 million DC convention center plan; and he has not said one word in support of Senator Leahy's revised plan which goes a long long way to protect DC citizens. I think the DC Gazette should press David Clarke for a complete statement on the DC convention center - since it has endorsed him for re-election.

There are some other questions which you should put to David Clarke, and they are: why doesn't David Clarke press for a city-wide referendum on the center which he supported without asking the voters in Ward 1 whether they wanted public funds used for a convention center. It is my view that Congressman Fauntroy's poll went to Clarke's constituents and reflects their views.

Members of Congress have voted repeatedly on the DC convention center beginning with the Eisenhower convention center which District citizens were called upon to pay for as early as 1972. Congress finally voted on April 8, 1974 not to put a dime in that project and it was dropped.

I would like to see David Clarke work hard for and make many speeches calling for a referendum, city-wide, on the revised convention center plans. It has been pointed out to me by Harriet Hubbard that Joseph Danzansky was one of the sponsors of David Clarke's birthday party at the Foxtrappe Club some months ago. Joseph Danzansky has, like other Board of Trade members, opposed a city-wide referendum on the DC convention center. Could it be that this type of big business support for the \$110 million convention center has more influence with David Clarke than the voters in Ward 1 who were polled by Congressman Walter Fauntroy?

GEORGE FRAIN



-LNS Photo



Walter Jumps in

THOSE who think Walter Washington will be a pushover in the race for mayor should have been in the basement ballroom of the Hotel Washington the other day when WEW got up before 600 of his most loyal friends and employees and shouted, "Praise the Lord! Something good is happening to this city." The something good was Walter's announcement that he was running for mayor again. The mayor was at his effervescent best which, odds-makers should note, is considerable more impressive than either the turgid Tucker or Barry, who has not yet discovered how to turn his reincarnation as a "responsible politician" into something with charismatic appeal.

The mayor, with his portly Ali act, has the power to make one forget, no small achievement for a politician. Make one forget, for example, that Walter Washington did not stop the freeways as he now suggests, that the housing of which he boasts was pulled painfully from the city administration like an impacted molar and that his claim of fiscal solvency exempts from consideration the enormous long-term debt DC has piled up under his guidance.

The mayor's announcement was an unofficial holiday for the top administrators at city hall, all in that ballroom on two hours annual leave we were assured. Chief Jefferson stood in uniform in the hotel lobby welcoming the faithful. And downstairs only Joe Yeldell, already on leave, was missing.

The mayor talked too long, as is often the case, but he had to in order to turn his prepared remarks into something that would move the crowd. The mayor is a better speechwriter than his speechwriters so he gave two speeches: the written one intertwined with his own, a carefully structured defense mixed with rambling evocations of optimism, faith and Walter's own conviction that he has taken the city from oppression into a brighter day of civil equality, subways and swimming pools.

A woman interjected from the rear. "Go on sister! Say something!" Walter cried. "Talk when you get ready! Shout when you get ready! Go and tell the story of Walter Washington!"

And later: "Everybody is somebody to this mayor."

Walter's contention that his faults pale in the face of the progress the city has made in the past decade should not be discounted by his opponents. There are many people in this town who think the fudging and the fumbling went with the territory and that Walter marched relatively unscathed through minefields most would not have dared approach. They'll right-on him when he tells how tough the job is and offers his little parables:

"Man walked in and said 'I'll tell you how to get rid of dope. Don't let it in. That ain't no program, that's somebody's mouth.'"

To these people, Walter Washington is not only for Washington, he is Washington, the symbol of the new city — a city which in ten short years has moved to the point that it is possible for blacks to be corrupt. A decade ago there wasn't much you could bribe a black about.

They see Sterling as sly and Marion, at best, as a troublemaker on parole. A Walter Washington supporter with whom we talked attacked Barry bitterly — never once conceding that the 'trouble' Barry had caused as a street militant helped to bear the fruit that the Washingtons and Tuckers could munch on with serene respectability. There is little gratitude for the changers, only for the change.

That much the change has occurred despite Walter Washington is something the mayor has the rhetorical ability to obscure. His campaign will claim credit for the past even while preaching complacency for the future.

Which is not to say that Walter Washington is going to stand completely pat. He can't. He's lost much of his business base — symbolized by the remarkably weak business representation at his announcement rally. When you've got to put Albert Rosenfield on the platform as an icon of capitalistic support you've got trouble in the boardrooms.

His new constituency, not in terms of size but of proportion, is organized labor. Labor has supported Walter Washington before but this time if Walter wins everyone will know that labor has also. A second Washington administration would undoubtedly reflect it.

He will be looking for other constituents as well. The mayor, who for a decade marched to the drum of the Board of Trade will speak now more warmly of the little people. It's no big problem for Walter. His attacks on "would-be political bosses" slip easily from his lips even as he counts to make sure all his department heads are on hand for the announcement.

It took Washington a long time to announce. Rumors of ambassadorships and fears of indictments were among the speculations. Our own theory was that perhaps Walter waited because he was planning to run on his record and didn't want to run out of material. But in the end, it was probably just good politics. Size up the opposition, let them dirty each other a bit and then jump into the fray clean and fresh.

Now we can get down to business. Don't place your bets yet. If nothing else, there's just too much quirkiness in DC politics to assume that September will inevitably follow May. For example, one of the emotional scenes at the mayor's rally came when a preacher formerly listed as a Tucker supporter hobbled down the aisle and took his place on the platform, telling reporters later that he had been double-crossed into his apparent endorsement of Tucker. Councilmember Jerry Moore, another reputed Tucker supporter, was also on hand to declare himself neutral. Dave Clarke is also neutral for the moment and John Wilson says he doesn't want anyone for mayor. The long-discounted potential that the mayor could win is beginning to tell.

On the other hand, the mayor's show confirmed that at best he is still only a would-be political boss. For as Chief Jefferson was glad-handing his supporters, the chief's officers were outside ticketing them for double parking. That doesn't happen in Chicago.

BABY RIBS

SURE SIGN CBC IS IN TROUBLE: They're talking about changing the name — to CBE for Competency Based Education. And we hadn't figured out what self-actualization was yet. . . . JOE DAVIS, long-time housing activist here, has written a guide to energy conservation at home. It's called "Wage the Energy War at Home" and Claxton Walker is the co-author. Published by Emerson Books. . . . IF TEACHERS AT your school got riffed, you can put the blame squarely at the feet of the city council, which refused to grant the school system the funds it requested. Only Doug Moore, Hilda Mason and Wilhelmina Rolark voted for full funding for the schools.

. . . LOTS OF STRIKE talk at the bulk mailing facility of the Postal Service here. . . . GO RUB A BRASS at the gift shop of the National Cathedral. It's open seven days a week and they have wax crayons, paper and instructions. . . . LILLIAN WIGGINS wants to know why Doug Schneider got off so lightly in the white press for the case involving PMI's improper use of a city-owned lot. Writing in the Afro, Wiggins compares this incident to the harsher treatment accorded Yeldell. . . . DC CITIZENS FOR BETTER PUBLIC EDUCATION has published a handbook on standardized testing. You can get it free by calling them at 484-7030. . . . THAT DC GOV suit to block the opening of a sewage treatment plant that would dump into Rock Creek followed Gazette revelation of the plan. . . . BUILDING PERMITS ARE flying in the Dupont Circle area as developers try to end run citizen efforts to downzone there. . . . BERNICE JUST — organizer of the Pretrial Justice Program and a member of the Law Revision Commission, is running in Ward Five. . . . AN OFFICE WORKERS ORGANIZATION has been formed in DC. It's 60 W.P.M. and it's located in room 1205 at 1346 Conn. Ave. Number is 296-6447. . . . PAT PRESS is running against Nadine Winter in Ward Six. . . . THE S&L BUNCH is out to raise the usury limits again. Now they say a 12% home loan rate sounds reasonable. The story is buried on the business pages until the council votes get lined up.

The center again

THE CONVENTION CENTER deal is beginning to make Joe Yeldell look like St. Paul. For a while there it seemed that Patrick Leahy would manage to bluff the city's politicians into paying some attention to their constituents as well as to their campaign contributors, but in the end he surrendered to their absurd obsession, hoping perhaps that the current campaign would prove better therapy than his own efforts. Leahy signed off his valiant fight against the center with the comment that if he were a DC citizen, "I would still oppose it simply as a bad idea."

The record so far indicates that most DC citizens do oppose it. A poll conducted by Walter Fauntroy found that 61% of the respondents reject the idea and there is growing support for a voter referendum on the plan. Unfortunately, given the committed stance of the council, the referendum would have to be citizen-initiated and that will have to wait until next year. A referendum next year could still be feasible, since the most that could have happened by then would be the land acquisition, and we can always use the land for something else.

Another tactic to be pursued is to demand that there be public hearings on the revised proposal. Washington and Tucker have agreed to submit to Leahy. There is every reason to suspect that this new proposal will be as full of figure fudging, arbitrary accounting, and misleading pronouncements as its various predecessors. Just one day after the agreement between Congress and city hall was reached, Walter Washington was citing with a straight face plans to construct a Marriott Hotel in the West End as what the

THE ATLANTA MYTH: Atlanta will undoubtedly be cited yet some more as evidence of the wonders a convention center can produce. Here's what *Business Week* reported last February 28: "Atlanta is booming, Atlanta is booming, Atlanta is booming." That, says Ralph O. Hutchison, a real estate specialist who is president of Stonehenge Cos., was often the extent of market research by financial institutions before they poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Atlanta's phenomenal building boom in the early 1970s. The result of this poor judgment is one of the worst urban real estate disasters in history, dramatically highlighted by last week's foreclosure notice by a consortium of lenders led by Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., of New York on the \$100 million Omni International complex (near Atlanta's convention center - Ed.). . . . If Morgan Guaranty takes over the Omni, four of the six major projects completed in the past five years, representing an investment of \$250 million, will have fallen into the hands of lenders."

Star called, "the first evidence that the District would meet new conditions imposed yesterday by Congress for development of the proposed convention center."

This claim was patently untrue. The kindest thing one can say about Wally's statement is that he got his boondoggles mixed up. The Marriott Hotel has been in the works for at least three years and is the product of the West End rezoning giveaway, not the Mt. Vernon one.

The growing intensity of feeling about the convention center can be gauged by the fact that even the *Gazette* is getting heat on it.

FUNNY FIGURES: Unfortunately for the Mt. Vernon mob, New York City decided to go ahead with a convention center almost simultaneously with the Leahy-Washington-Tucker agreement. Unfortunately, first, because it is a significant reminder that convention centers are not built in a market vacuum. NYC's projections undoubtedly include the expectation that many of the same conventions Washington and Tucker count on coming here will go to New York. Second, although New York is planning a center one and a half times the size of DC's, its published minimum expected tax benefits are below that of DC. While it's maximum is higher (\$19.2 million annual vs. DC's \$10.2 million) that difference is not that great when one considers the comparative size of the centers and the cities involved. As Leahy pointed out, if we spent the same per capita on our center as New York is spending on its, we'd have only \$20 million for a center instead of five times that amount.

The *Gazette* exposed the first convention scheme a few years back and helped to kill it. We raised some of the first questions - 72 of them, in fact - about the revised plan including its financing, economic predictions and conflicts of interest. So it came as a shock to some of our readers to find us endorsing pro-center candidates last month. (For an example see Art Waskow's comments on the Ward One race elsewhere this issue). The reason for this fall from purity is that we are not inclined towards one-factor analysis of candidates and there are very few politicians who can survive even a two or three factor analysis. At the same time, while we would like to see Marion Barry become mayor, for example, we see no reason why he should not be beaten soundly on his ears for his support of the center. It has been a bad mistake and it may contribute to his loss in September and he has to be told that over and over until it sinks in.

For those who do feel that opposition to the center is the prime qualification for office we offer a partial list of some of the candidates who have at least called for a referendum on the issue.

The list begins with Walter Fauntroy (See the danger in one-factor analysis?). Fauntroy has been slipping his mug and his wump all over Mt. Vernon Square but as far

WHO BENEFITS: The biggest landholder in the area around the convention center is Dominic Antonelli. Other significant holdings belong to May Stores (Hecht's), C&P, Woodies, the heirs of Christian Heinrich, Rose Schein Inc. and parking lord Lenoard B. Doggett. The Washington Post building is about six blocks away and the center's own consultant has a toehold in the area, through its sibling company, Quadrangle Development Corporation.

back as two years ago he was urging that the House support a referendum on the issue. He told his colleagues:

"It would be utterly inconsistent with the principle of self-determination that this Congress has approved. . . to now say that the people of this community cannot intelligently make a decision on whether they are willing to pay for this convention center."

Once during this earlier go-round on the center, we ran into Fauntroy as he came out of a hearing at which the welfare fathers of downtown DC were pleading for a hand-out at Mt. Vernon Square. "It's terrible how they're trying to buy this town," he said then. Whatever else you can say about Walter, he is significantly more independent of the Board of Trade than a number of current mayoral candidates.

In the mayor's race, the anti-center candidate would have to be John Ray, at least in the Democratic primary. Tucker and Washington are the prime political culprits in this affair and Barry remains unmoved, even on the question of a referendum. Dorothy Maulsby supports a referendum on the question and opposes one hundred percent public financing, but Ray is the candidate who has shown the most interest and insight into the issue.

In the city council chair contest, Doug Moore is clearly the choice if you want to stay not only out of Mt.

WORDS WORTH REMEMBERING: From a *New York Times* article by Ada Louise Huxtable: "It must be made clear that a convention center is not itself a vitalizing thing, whatever economic vitality it may generate. It is, essentially, an enormous box, often of heavy concrete, stretching for hundreds of feet and many blocks, offering blank vistas of endless solid walls. It lays a dead hand on everything around it. It breeds empty streets, except at show or meeting time, when it brings streams of traffic. Even skillful and elegant structural systems do not ameliorate this undesirable result. Such a blockbuster creates not life but parking garages. It may encourage construction of a hotel or two, usually big, standardized and dull. It may start speculative assemblages, but not the kind of development that makes street life. Convention center territory. . . turns into a featureless no-man's land."

Vernon morass, but out of the real estate industry's pocket generally. Arrington Dixon is a favorite of the realtors and they hate Moore's guts. But, as we say, there are other factors in this race too, and we can't make up our mind.

Happily, in the at-large race both the candidates we endorsed, Betty Anne Kane and Hilda Mason, favor a referendum on the issue. So does at-large candidate Goldie Johnson.

In the wards, center critics include Frank Smith in Ward One, Polly Shackleton in Ward Three and Nadine Winter in Ward Six. We endorsed Dave Clarke over Smith, but endorsed Shackleton and are still puzzling over Winter's seat.

School hit list

VINCE REED, whose competency based curriculum is drifting dangerously towards the rocks, is in still more trouble over his plans to close a large number of schools. Theoretically, the point is to save money but the savings — around \$600,000 — is so little that one wonders why he bothered to risk the inevitable outraged reaction that has occurred. At one hearing involving just a few of the schools, more than a hundred witnesses showed up to protest. They brought drums, signs, models of their school and a long list of reasons why their school shouldn't be razed, which ranged from the profound to the mundane — c.g. one witness pointed to her school's marble floors as a reason for keeping it in operation. As more than twenty witnesses objected to the closing of one school, two safety patrols stood on stage holding the school banner.

Several witnesses pointed out that under the closing plan, Giddings, which has a cafeteria and an auditorium, would be shut down — facilities that would have to be reconstructed elsewhere when the students moved. Said Diana Berek: "It reminds me of digging a hole, filling it, and then digging it again."

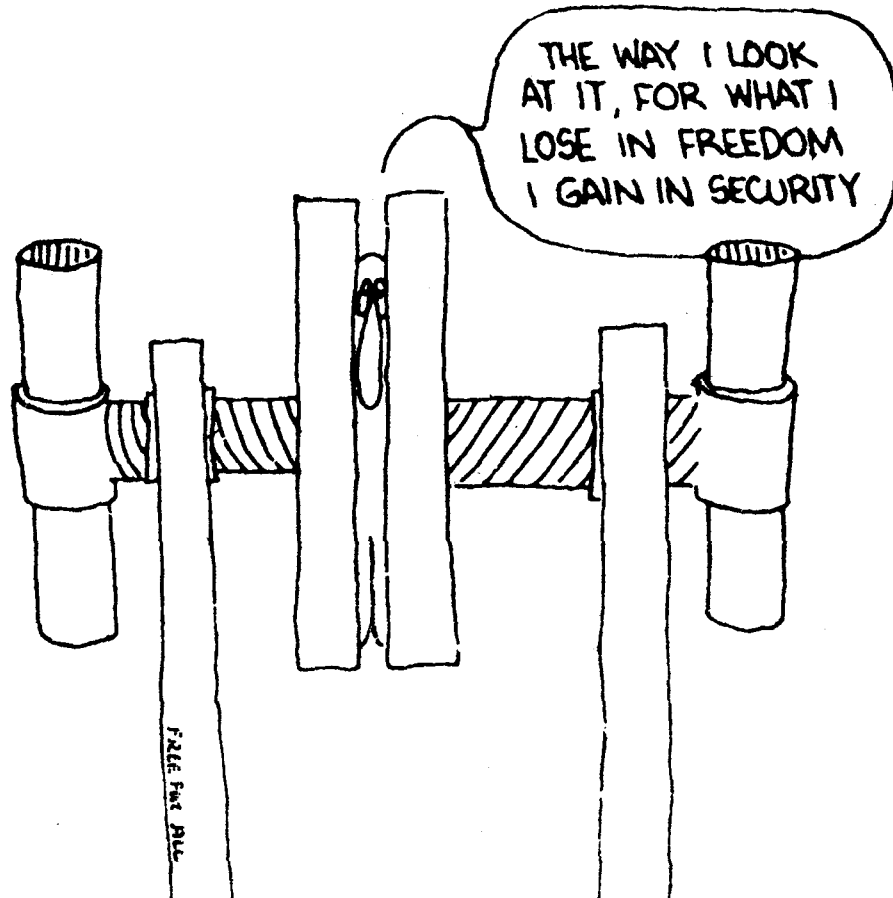
Buchanan student James Smith also had practical objections. In a strong voice he stated: "I can't think of any reason why the board is thinking of closing Buchanan School. There will be 42 students in one room. One teacher can not handle 42 students and keep her eyes on them at the same time."

His fellow student Mark Jackson turned to poetry:

*Tell me, tell me forsythia
Will they close our school in June?
And if they do, forsythia,
Can we still come by and see your bloom?*

*If we do not return in September,
No doubt we will always remember
The joy you gave when we were so cool
At Buchanan Elementary School.*

Hazel Ford took the environmental approach with the added argument that Eleanor Roosevelt had once visited Giddings. Ford noted the smart appearance of the school, the fact that the students continually landscape it, the "sparkling walls" and the garden plot maintained by the kids in nearby Garfield Park. She also provided the board with a long list of Giddings students who had won awards there.



Ronald Simmons pleaded: "At Giddings School my child has had nothing but success — day by day success. How long will it take another team like this. Please, let's for once think of the children."

Student Raymond Green, hardly higher than the witness tables, said simply: "Please help us keep Giddings elementary school open."

Jóseph Brown, special assistant to the school board's secretary, stepped out of his role as recorder of the hearing long enough to tell his story about Giddings. Not only had he, his parents and his brothers and sisters gone to Giddings, but so had former school superintendent Benjamin Henley, and many DC school teachers not to mention such famed local boxers as Sonny Boy West and Smugsy Hershey. Brown told us later, "If we had just listened to a third of the things our teachers told us, we could be president now."

WHEN THEY SELL THE SCHOOLS

Betty Anne Kane has proposed that any proceeds from the sale of closed schools go back to the school system. This may prove to be a little too logical for the city council.

School board member Frank Shaffer-Corona thinks the closings are part of an overall plan to rid the city of its poor. Half the schools on the hit list are Title One schools. And there is considerable developer interest in several of the sites, including the Sumner School near 22nd & M, where Edward Bennett Williams has been quietly assembling land.

But what became apparent listening to dozens of witnesses plead their case was that the schools were slated for closing in part because the Presidential Building does not understand that schools are not just another government building. In many communities they are a meeting place, something the neighborhood shares in common, a symbol and a service. When you close a school, you are not just tearing down brick walls, you are often attacking the heart of the society we call a neighborhood. For \$600,000 in savings it's not worth it.

THOSE WHO HAD hoped that Wolf Von Eckard's unbridled enthusiasm for all things architectural might have gone into remission will be sorry to learn the Pollyanna of Planning is raving dangerously again.

Latest symptom was a May 14 piece in the Post on I.M. Pei, who is responsible for that addendum to the National Gallery of Art that has received such critical acclaim. The article is vintage Wolf, right down to the glossing over Pei's role in the tragic Southwest Urban Renewal fiasco. But the sentences that caught our eye were the following:

"The most talked about Pei building is the John Hancock Tower on Boston's Copley Square. But it isn't talked about because it is a brilliant or even beautiful solution to a tough design problem. It is talked about because its mirror glass panes kept falling out. . . The Kennedy Library, too, was mostly being talked about for nonarchitectural reasons. It did not fit into the Cambridge community."

In other words, if you thought that keeping the windows in place was a rather intrinsic aspect of a design solution, or fitting a building into its environment the proper concern of an architect you have been sadly mistaken. Architecture, Wolf assures us, is a higher art than that. And we suspect, judging from the number of roofs that have been falling or leaking, that he is not alone. It's the architect's role to be brilliant and beautiful; ours to keep the buckets and the plywood handy.

WALTER VS. STATEHOOD

WALTER FAUNTROY is still sniping at statehood, one of the few politicians in town to do so openly. What's surprising about his latest gratuitous criticism is that they appear in a booklet Fauntroy prepared to boost his favorite constitutional amendment and thus suggest there is more interest about statehood on the Hill than had previously been imagined.

And now for a change of pace. . .

SOME GOOD NEWS FROM IVY CITY

BLAIR GATELY

"I'VE been here for 27 years and it's the first time anyone's done anything for the area."

Edna Tyler was speaking of Ivy City, historically one of the city's poorest and most neglected neighborhoods, and of the Institute for Cultural Affairs, which in 1976 organized a "human development project" to change things there.

ICA now sponsors after-school programs, classes and recreational activities and has helped to form a market, pre-school and print shop - all community-owned and operated.

"I think the project has done wonders for Ivy City," says Tyler, who has been working with ICA from the start. She has helped to organize Women's Guild luncheons and Golden Age dinners for the elderly, as well as community celebrations and festivals.

"This is like missionary work," says Fred Wilson, chairman of the Ivy City Community Council. "Last summer I worked in the community garden in a vacant lot and I plan to do it again this summer." The food that was raised was used throughout the year in community suppers. "This is a good opportunity for community people to help themselves," adds Wilson.

Katherine Cromer, an Ivy City resident since 1945, has also been working with the project since it came to the neighborhood. "I enjoy working on it," she comments. "It's terrific. We've never had anything going on in Ivy City. We never got parks or recreation for kids. Young kids need activities. Kids used to be out on the streets. We now have a Youth Corps with discos, games and recreation. ICA has made things convenient."

Reginald Tyson, 16, is Sergeant-at-Arms of the Youth Corps. He says that the group "took trips to the zoo, to New York and roller skating, and sponsored dances." The Youth Corps recently got a contract from the Hecht Co. Warehouse on New York Avenue to employ two youths in maintaining the grounds.

Emily Tyson, Reginald's grandmother, is heavily involved in several ICA activities, including the Women's Guild. "It's a good project," she said. "I'd like to see more people in the neighborhood - both renters and owners - take an interest. It's for their benefit. They should be interested in the neighborhood and its upkeep."

Ivy City, an 18-block area of mixed residential and commercial use, is located in Northeast Washington bounded by New York Avenue, West Virginia Avenue and the grounds of Gallaudet College.

There are about 2,000 residents of Ivy City, half of whom are under 25 years of age, according to Pam Thomas, an ICA staff member in Ivy City.

She says that "Ivy City used to have the third highest crime rate in the city, but now it's 17th," a change she attributes to the project's activities for youth and overall community involvement. "ICA has an advisory and consulting role. We want the community to be able and take the initiative and take charge of itself."

"ICA's role is to help communities get started in their renewal process. People can rebuild their communities," explains Joyce Ollison, the project director.

There are 16 ICA staff members stationed in Ivy City. "We operate like a private Peace Corps. We get a stipend for our living expenses and some of us work in outside jobs," Thomas said.

ICA has its headquarters in the Grumel School, a brick building dating from 1912. Two smaller buildings on the premises are also used by community. Staff members live on the premises. ICA leased the buildings from the DC school system and eventually hopes to buy the building from the city.

The organization holds bi-weekly elected-council meetings, and semi-annual meetings for the entire community. In addition, there is a complex structure of commissions, dealing with housing, health, education and commerce.

ICA sponsors a pre-school, which is in the process of being licensed by the District of Columbia. The teachers are volunteers, all of them Ivy City residents.

A recently-organized community print-shop is doing enough business to be self-sustaining and also employs Ivy City residents. ICA organizers hope "to open a supermarket, or convenience foodstore, a laundromat, a thrift shop and carry out restaurant," in the near future.

Community residents also operate a market on Saturdays where one can purchase fresh produce, dry goods and dairy products.

The human development project sponsors "after school programs for children under 12, physical fitness classes three times a week for all age groups, basic skills classes for GED (High School Equivalency), test preparation, art classes for children and typing classes for teens.

Ivy City has been divided into five "stakes" by the project organizers. Each stake is a geographic area of two or three blocks and each stake sponsors its own celebrations, clean-up campaigns and festivals.

ICA's role in Ivy City is only temporary and Howard says that they hoped to turn over the operation of all aspects of the project to the community soon.

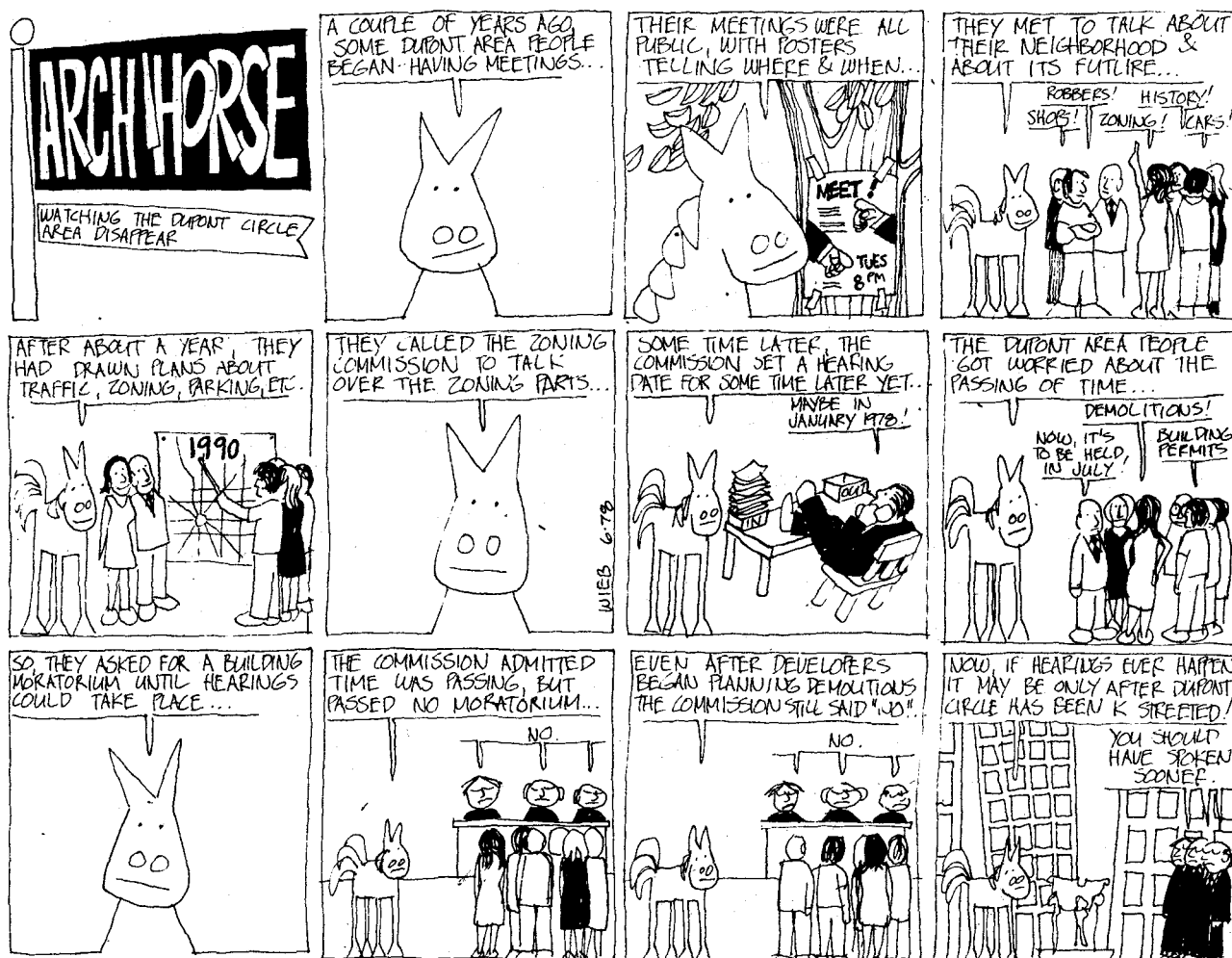
For 15 years before its incorporation in 1973, ICA was a division of the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago, another not-for-profit corporation. ICA has 24 projects in various areas of the world. In addition to centers in Venezuela, India, England and Kenya, it has projects in Chicago, the Mississippi Delta area, and on Indian reservations in the western United States.

Funding for ICA comes from grants, gifts, contributions from churches, government agencies, private foundations, corporations and individuals. "Ten per cent comes from the federal government and 90 percent comes from small donors," Thomas said. We are also given donations of building materials and supplies."

The Ivy City project has been funded by the Lutheran and Methodist churches and individual contributions and they have not received any money directly from the federal government.

A summary statement put out by ICA gives a short history of Ivy City, describing it in 1873 as "a plot of pasture and farmland along the B&O railroad tracks. In the 1880's DC became a brick manufacturing center and contributed to the city's building boom. Later, Ivy City was the home of a race track. In the early 1900's the area began to attract large commercial and manufacturing businesses. But since the 1950's business has moved to the suburbs, and the Ivy City area now has warehouses, wholesale businesses, utility plants and bus garages."

Neighborhood residents and ICA staffers hope that the project may bring good times back to Ivy City.



OUTSIDE WASHINGTON

THEY'RE BOYCOTTING RN's book, but official Washington still loves Richard Helms. On May 17, there he was again, wrapped around the fold in a three column-cut on the front-page of the Washington Post. His hands were raised as if in prayer, although, more suitably his fingers should have been crossed, for the story that accompanied the photo, "Helms Warns of Excessive Curbs on CIA," noted that Helms had told a Senate committee: "I don't know of any director, at least during my time, who fiddle-faddled with the Congress."

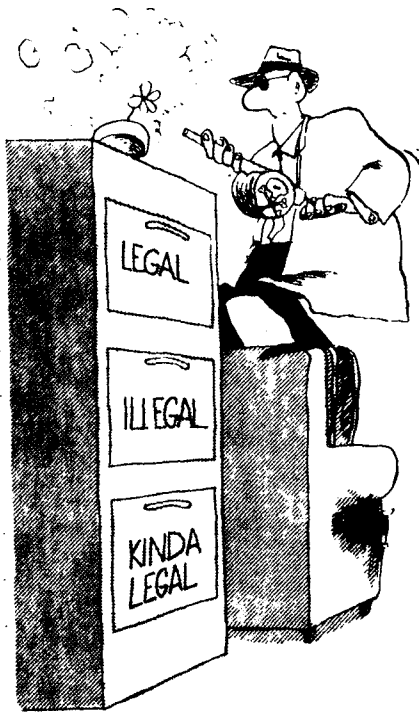
The story, written by George Lardner Jr. (one of the most assiduous promoters of the conventional wisdom concerning the big three assassinations), allowed only the most circuitous reference to lying to Congress about Chile. Quoted Lardner:

"After what happened to me legally," Helms told the committee, it became quite clear that no CIA official called before a Senate committee to give sworn testimony could expect to do so 'without taking his pants down.'"

Helms remains one of Washington's most socially popular law-breakers and the reverential treatment accorded to him by the press and the official city gives no little substance to the complaint of the Watergate gang that there is a double-standard here. To create some confluence with reality, local courts should consider adding charm and social acceptability as mitigating factors in sentencing reports. The truth the federal enclave doesn't want to accept is that if Nixon had been more well-bred he wouldn't have gotten into so much trouble.

THE POST might have been more helpful if it had given the space instead to the recent news that the CIA was messed up with Chicago's notorious Red Squad during the 1960s. Memos recently released implicate none other than Helms himself, and one of the documents states that a commander of the Red Squad was removed following a 1967 meeting between CIA officials and Chicago police. Seems the commander was more interested in going after the Mafia than in harrasing radicals. You have to keep your priorities straight.

THOSE OF US who waited through the long grim days of the Nixon-Ford administration for a return of purpose had better batten down the hatches again. As a New Deal baby, I confess to a certain nostalgia for the days when people here thought they had to do something. In fact, the last time I saw evidence that any sizable number of the powerful believe in doing anything was at a New Deal anniversary dinner a couple of years ago — and many of those there had flown in for the evening and were retired. Jimmy Carter didn't bother to attend and Walter Mondale was meant to have, but went fishing



instead. So the major speech was given by Hubert Humphrey. It was in the best rip-snorting style of Humphrey, his cancerous frame reminding us that the day of establishment figures who cared about those other than themselves was fast drawing to a close. At the end he added a few perfunctory sentences about how the Carter administration was striving to reach the ideals of the New Deal. Then he added: "Now I've given my speech and Walter Mondale's speech and now I'm going to sit down."

There's a difference between caring and being right. And since anyone in power is wrong a good deal of the time — as Humphrey was on Vietnam — caring is one of the few things that can make a difference. This is why we can still have fondness for Harry Truman despite the atom bomb, his acquiescence to red-baiting and his promotion of the Cold War and be saddened that Lyndon Johnson's domestic bravery and sanity had to be shattered by his allegiance to international power myths.

I think Jimmy Carter actually does care, but he doesn't know how to spread his concern productively, either through competence or passion. He seems a cold bungler, as opposed to Jerry Ford, who was a warm bungler. I think if the public had known this in time, they might have at least kept the heat turned up.

Bungling does not have to be a handicap in high office. Even in the worst of times, it can be favorable force; consider where we would be now if Nixon hadn't bungled. Unfortunately, if you tend to regard the country as a nuclear submarine, you negate the protection of bungling the democratic process provides. In the old days, presidents used to make a great show of consulting with Congress. It not only was good politics, it helped keep the blame spread around. But when Carter makes a mistake everyone knows it's his mistake.

Carter is not helped much either by an administration that might have been cloned from Jerry Ford's cabinet from all one can tell.

Something terribly wrong has happened to cabinets and it happened long before Carter took over. Prior to Andrew Young, Wally Hickel was the last cabinet official who gave any pleasure. For several administrations, cabinet officials generally seem to have aspired nothing more substantial than to be mistaken for Elliot Richardson. Hamilton Jordan and Jody Powell are pleasant enough light-weights, but like the gravediggers in "Hamlet," only there for distraction. The rest of the crowd save Young could have been picked at random from the board rooms of the Fortune Five Hundred and you probably would have done as well. The press works energetically at convincing us that there are real people in these posts, but the truth is that they are all made by Fisher-Price and you can find replacements at Toys 'R' Us anytime except the last days before Christmas.

The situation is not totally bleak. I gather that Sam Brown actually has something on his mind, which probably will mean his early demise. But for the most part, from the top on down to the Assistant Deputy Underthings, we must admit that our government is run by people whose personal goals far exceed their expectations for the rest of the country and that this is now, truly, a bipartisan tradition.

Ellen Goodman, as usual, put it straight: "Washington in 1978 reminds me of New York in 1968. This is where people are coming to hustle. The difference is that most people come to Washington to make it and leave it. They want to turn over everything, from their house to themselves, at a quick profit."

ALL OF which should put us in a fairly hopeless frame of mind were it not for Ellen again. I have kept a clip from her column of Jan. 3 and referred to it from time to time when the walls seemed to be closing in. In fact, just the other day a gentleman from the Washingtonian called seeking help on an article on "The 100 Most Powerful People in Washington." I fell into the trap and played along for awhile, trying to come up with some off-the-wall suggestions. Then I said, "But I have a little quote," and picked up Goodman's column about a father's discussion with his sophomore son who had decided that he was a Realist and a Cynic. The father quoted Camus:

"If we listen attentively, we shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations, the faint fluttering of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope. Some say this hope lies in a nation, others in a man. I believe, rather, that it is awakened, revived, nourished by millions of solitary individuals whose deeds and words every day negate frontiers and the crudest implications of history."

I read it to the Washingtonian reporter. He listened and then commented that his editor had "said I would say something like that."



PNS PHOTO BY BILL DOW

WHAT appears at first glance to be a metaphorical treatment of Zbig Brzezinski's vision of East-West relations is actually a scene from the perhaps forthcoming movie "Roar," which stars Tippi Hedren, Melanie Griffith and Jerry Marshall, as well as 120 tigers, jaguars, cheetahs and cougars. Unfortunately, only four weeks from finishing filming in Soledad Canyon, floods struck. The editing room, cafeteria, 300,000 feet of exposed film and two lionesses were swept down the river. Producer-director-actor Noel Marshall has applied for an SBA emergency loan.

THERE IS A LESS PHILOSOPHICAL BRIGHT spot as well. Jimmy Carter has been in office long enough to get into a war and he hasn't. This could turn out to be his great contribution to American history. After all, another of our less than effective presidents, Eisenhower, redeemed himself by staying out of international trouble. I think, perhaps naively, that Carter would like to do the same.

But if he is to succeed he had better keep a close eye on Zbiggy Brzezinski, who, according to Elizabeth Drew in the New Yorker, was arguing for sending in a US naval task force should Ethiopian troops cross the Somalia border. Secretary of State Vance and Defense Secretary Brown opposed the idea. Brzezinski told Drew: "There is a generation worried by Vietnam with consequences of self-imposed paralysis, which is likely to be costlier in the long-run."

The comment came at a time when Mars was rapidly approaching Saturn in the western sky, inevitably causing a spate of crises in places we haven't thought about in years. In a matter of days the Foreign Legion was in Zaire, the Dominican Republic was on the verge of a coup, and "Soviet-backed troops" were springing out all over ably assisted by Cuban mercenaries about to seize control of the entire Dark Continent. Zbig searched frantically for someplace to intervene. It was all a tremendous relief to the nation's press, which finds dealing with domestic problems extremely tedious, especially since their pat analyses are constantly being called into question by others who know what they are talking about. A crisis in Zaire is no-fault journalism at its best; one can write about it for months without signifi-

cant challenge. Indeed, with a little help from adjectival friends like "Soviet-backed," we can even get into war about it. The world was safer when the press relied upon less explosive clichés; it's so much harder to get excited about "bare-footed Ethiopian troops" doing anything.

Which brings us back, unfortunately, to Zbig. The one thing I had thought might be a positive result of Carter's rise to office would be an end to Harvard professors attempting to prove their virility at the expense of the nation. But somehow Zbig snuck in, along with his macho buddy Samuel Huntington, and once again Harvard-backed troops have gained an important foothold in the strategic heart of official Washington.

There is, I believe, a way for Carter to deal with this problem short of sacking them and that is to firmly establish the principle that we shall send no troops to any country which a majority of Americans can not locate on a map. A generation of peace, at the very least, would be the inevitable result of such a policy.

THE Washington Post has apparently seized upon the troubles in Africa as a perfect antidote to its post-Watergate torpor. Its enthusiasm for the various conflicts there was reaching Hearstian proportions by late May, as a comparative reading of the Post and the more restrained New York Times would confirm.

One of the Post's more jaunty headlines was "US, Paris Agree to Help Africans Defend Selves." This sort of coverage is confusing to the lay reader, many of whom are under the impression that all the major antagonists are African. Unfortunately, these combatants have not neat-

ly aligned themselves geographically and the concern is so fresh that journalists have not been able to devise generic terms short of the accurate but journalistically repugnant description of "our Africans" and "theirs."

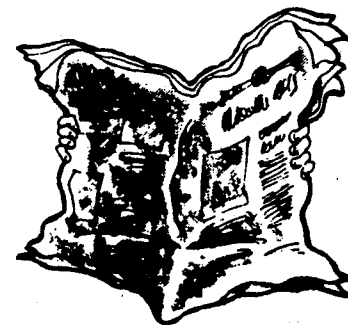
The Post, in the fine tradition of the press, is also far more concerned with dead and raped Europeans than with Africans who suffer the same fate. As of the end of last month, the death toll in Zaire, for example, was running about four blacks dead for every white. This is not, however, up to the eight to one ratio you need to gain editorial equality, but one might think that a paper published in a town that was seventy percent black would wish to modify the normal practice somewhat to placate those readers who do not share Ben Bradlee's apparent view that killing a Belgian is worse than killing an African.

A FEW DAYS after Brock Adams had announced further cuts in Amtrak, he flew south to observe our new anti-terrorist military squads in action. There's always a solution to one's problems.

—THELONIUS

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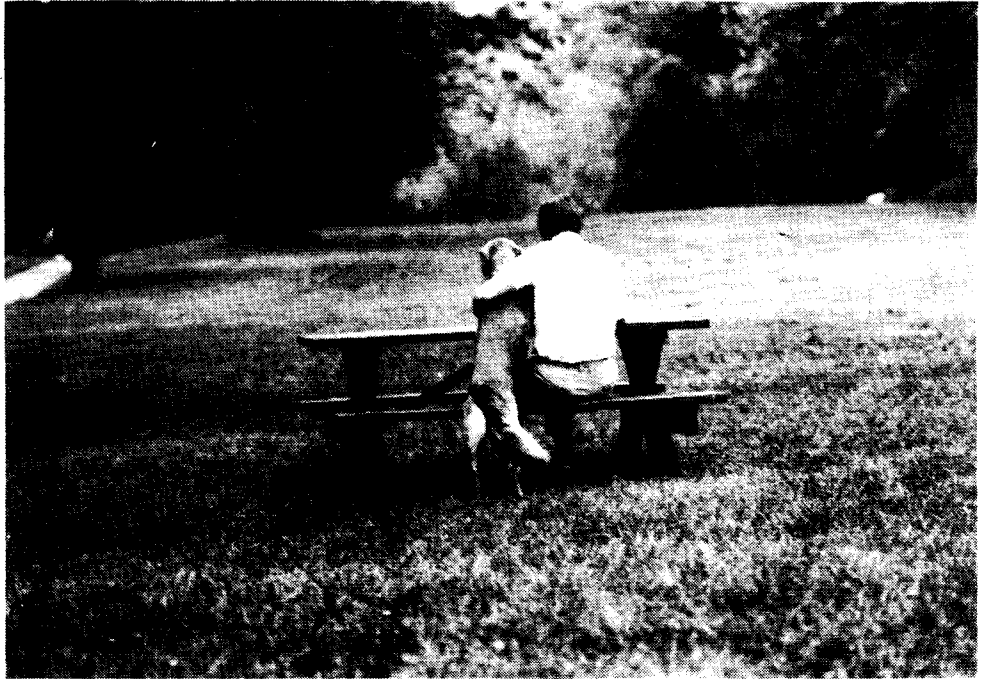
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THE LONER: BACK TO THE CLOSET

ERIC GREEN



-PHOTO BY LEONARD COHEN

"WEEKENDS were made for Michelob," soothes the beer commercial on television, suggesting to viewers that drinking Michelob in the woods on weekends will make you popular with people. "Here's to good friends," the commercial continues as the "good buddies" salute each other on their friendship with a wave of their beer mugs.

I'm sad to report that I spend most of my weekends sitting miserably alone in my room watching these dumb commercials. "Here's to myself," I sob as I raise my cup of hot chocolate to a face covered with tears. "Weekends were made for watching television," I sing, trying to cheer myself up.

Perhaps the writers of self-help books had me in mind for their claims that "living alone results in premature death."

"New research reveals that if you are lonely, your physical well-being is seriously affected," these writers warn.

I've been a lonely person since birth and I don't know what to do about it. I've tried everything to stop feeling lonely - religion, EST, singles dances, TM, group therapy and volunteer work on political campaigns. Nothing's worked.

Lonely people like myself feel like freaks. "He must not have any friends," I hear people giggle when I'm spotted sitting alone in the corner at a restaurant.

I wish I could see the advantages of living alone. I wish I could be like my friend Marty who takes pride in his aloneness. Marty says he's had it with crowds. He says he doesn't want to get involved with humanity. Marty refers to himself as a loner because being around people makes him feel depressed and lonely. Marty feels happiest when he is alone. In recognition of his status as a loner, Marty has pasted a new bumper sticker to his car. "Happiness is me home alone," it reads.

Marty says he's forming the nation's first group for loners. It's called the National Association for the Advancement of Loner People (NAALP). It will be the only organization that refuses to allow members. Loners, by definition, don't join groups.

"Separate is equal," "Alone and proud," are two of Marty's favorite sayings. Marty is writing his autobiography called "No One Like(s) Me."

As a lonely person, I can't wait for that happy day when I too will join the millions of Americans who have had it with crowds. Millions of Americans are going back into the closet. They don't want to get involved. Staying home alone on Saturday night is the loner's idea of a big time.

Because of their secretive lifestyle and their all-consuming need for privacy, loners are often misunderstood. They are the victims of hate campaigns. Loners have been called everything from homosexuals and communists to child molesters and computer programmers.

"They're different from us," warns Juanita Jones, president of Citizens for A Crowded America. Juanita is spearheading a national crusade to ban loners from teaching in the public schools.

"I don't want them contaminating our children with their sick ways," Juanita says. "If God had wanted us to be loners, he would have said so in the Bible."

I can't wait for that day when I too go into the closet and announce proudly that I am a loner. But I'm still ashamed to admit that I have almost no friends. It's still a disgrace to go places alone.

I wish lonely people didn't need companionship in order to be happy. I dispute Barbra Streisand's contention that "people who need people are the luckiest people in the world." We're not. We're miserable. I hate needing other people. I wish I could emulate the loner who stays happy by avoiding people. How enjoyable it must be for Mr. or Miss Loner, who by keeping alone at parties, has already met Mr. or Miss Right.

Lonely people like myself often talk in "psychobabble" trying desperately to "relate" to other people. By using psychobabble, we hope people will find us intellectual, perceptive and "relevant." Our vocabulary is full of words such as SUPPORT SYSTEMS, SPACE, and FACILITATE because we sound like we know WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM and WHERE IT'S AT. In the old days, words like "support systems" used to refer to an astronaut's breathing supply.

I keep trying new tricks to win friends. I stand in huge crowds and long lines waiting to go inside theaters and restaurants. I myself have no intention of actually going inside. Instead, when I reach the door, I run to the back of the line. I met five new people one night while waiting on line for a Billy Graham revival.

Because of the many opportunities to make new friends, lonely people like me love natural disasters and car wrecks. "We're all into this together," smiled J.J., a lonely person, as she welcomed 173 people into her house during last year's blizzard in Boston. "We're all in this alone," muttered Otto, the loner next door, as he fastened the five chain locks to his door.

My loner friend Marty wants to rid me of my depression about living alone. He assures me the day will come when I prefer avoiding other people. Someday, he says, I won't want to know anybody. When that day comes, Marty teachers, I will learn the meaning of true happiness.

I'm reading a new book Marty's handed me called "The Loner's Paradise - Ten Ways to Stay Happy and Alone." Here are some excerpts from the book explaining how the world's top loners stay alone.

#1 At the golf course:

Golf is the sport of loners because it provides a wonderful opportunity to avoid people. Loner golfers play at sunrise or sunset when the course is empty. Loners play on sub-freezing days, in typhoons and during blizzards. "Not many people out here

today," Tom, the loner, chuckles with glee as he tees off during an electrical storm.

To avoid getting stuck with a playing partner on the first tee, loners hurl their golf clubs 40 feet into the air.

#2 In the restaurant:

Loners search for dirty tables in the corner. Fred, a loner from Minneapolis, chose a booth smeared with grease and chicken fat. "That's the only place I haven't cleared," said the confused waitress. "Why don't you pick a clean table?"

"I like it here," Fred answered with a smile, secure in the knowledge that no one would be joining him.

#3 Returning phone calls:

What if your must return a call to someone you despise? Try Jill's technique. She dials the number, lets the phone ring twice and then quickly hangs up. If she runs into the person, she can honestly say, "I tried to call, but no one answered."

#4 At the grocery store:

Shopping presents a dangerous possibility of running into acquaintances. To prevent that from happening, loners always buy less than 8 items at a time to insure use of the express line. Whenever possible, loners avoid crowds by shopping after midnight.

#5 Renting or buying a home:

Beware of apartments and condominiums that print their own newsletters. Watch out for the subdivision that puts up "welcome" signs. These places force you to know your neighbors. Avoid singles developments. Search for a home near cemeteries or in a "Quiet-Hospital Zone."

#6 Home furnishing:

Throw out your furniture. Keep one chair stuck in the corner for yourself. Company will recognize your need for privacy.

#7 Political or religious groups:

Don't join.

#8 Vacations or Trips:

Loners make rotten tourists. If you must travel to New York, San Francisco or any other tourist trap, pretend on arrival that you are a native. Wear dark business suits at all time to protect your anonymity. Walk the back streets after dark. Better yet, go back to your room and watch television.

#9 Causing a new form of "morning sickness":

Come to work on Monday morning, after a three-day weekend, chirping like Robin Red-Breast about how wonderful you feel. Keep singing out loud, "What a Rare Mood I'm In, It's Like Being in Love." A warm bubbling personality sickens most people.

#10 Debunking popular fads:

Announce that you despise yogurt, prune juice, sunflower seeds and anyone who uses them. Denounce transcendental meditation, EST, primal therapy, Gestalt psychology, "getting in touch with your feelings," and all so-called self-help books.

ERIC GREEN used to write for the Gazette but we haven't been able to find him lately.

Flotsam & Jetsam

A VISITING English friend wanted to rent a car to drive to New Orleans. There were several numbers listed in the yellow pages: two local offices and one of those 800 exchanges identified as "Domestic Reservations and Information No Charge to Calling Party."

He called each of the local offices several times but the line was always busy. He then made brief contact with the local office of a competing firm but quickly gave up the dialogue. The surly voice at 12th and K would have preferred not to have answered the phone at all, let alone be of any service after it did.

Finally, my friend tried the 800 exchange. At first it was busy, but on a second try it was answered by that familiar voice that guards tollfree numbers wherever and for whomsoever they may be. Most of the time this voice claims to be Marilyn, inevitably she cheerily wishes to be of service and most often she is. This may be a slight exaggeration; sometimes she is Charlene or even Trish, but never Edith or Gertrude or just a good hash-house name like Betty.

Within minutes Avis's Wizard had worked its magic and my friend had his car. As he hung up the phone he announced that this was the way to run a business.

Of course it is. I had urged my friend on to Eight Hundredland knowing full well that if you want any assistance these days you best call Houston toll-free.

I'm not sure that it was Houston but I have always assumed it was - ever since I almost got ticketed from Houston to Boston because I forgot to tell the Eight Hundredperson that I actually was in Washington. It was the only time I ever found out where Marilyn really was. She had momentarily slipped from her world-wide reserved infinity into being just plain Marilyn from Houston. Usually she remains serenely ubiquitous, her mandates spinning furiously the IBM typeballs in hundreds of local offices from continent to continent. And the local office snaps to because it knows it is not merely a customer or even Marilyn calling, but the Wizard.

What my friend had accidentally stumbled upon was an important fact of contemporary American life: the more remote the service the better it is likely to be. The prime exceptions to this revolutionary new principle are the local mom & pop store and one's neighborhood cleaner. But the vast middle-ground of American merchandising - the department stores, drug chains, the supermarkets - have become too large for their employees to provide service yet are too small to compensate for this deficiency through technological efficiency. Compare the time and frustration involved in purchasing an item at your local shopping center with ordering the same item from a mail-order house through a toll-free number. It becomes quickly clear that if you want service you either go the Seven-Eleven or call Houston.

While these alternatives may be more expensive, they are not necessarily so. This is because of the role of the car in the American shopping expedition. To adequately shop comparatively, one should add in the gas, depreciation and parking. Ivan Illich argues that you should compute the hours you spend working in order to pay for your car. Illich figures that if you add these hours to the time you spend driving it, you are actually moving at a speed of about five miles an hour.

In terms of service there is no comparison. There are at least two good reasons for this. One is that while computers are getting better people are getting worse. We have all heard the warnings that children who rely on pocket calculators will not learn how to multiply and divide on their own. I suspect the same danger exists for adults as we become more technologically dependant. Marilyn does not have to shift her weight the slightest to answer your most profound questions. On the other hand, the shoe clerk has to keep running back into the stock room to find a size larger in the brown wingtip. Marilyn can afford to be charming, informed and unperturbed because the Wizard is with her always. The shoe clerk, however, works Wizardless in a society that has come to expect Wizard-like service. Not only do the customers expect it, but the hapless clerk's superiors do as well, as they sit in a back room watching the print-out from the computerized cash register.

God Bless You, Marilyn, Whereever You Are

Worse, our poor clerk was probably trained by someone so deep into the technological aspects of inventory and sales that she couldn't find a 10 1/2 EE in the stock room any more if she had to. Thus the clerk is even less well equipped to deal with irate customers impatiently waiting in their socks for the right size. The clerk becomes surly, the service slows, and in a few generations the art of rummaging through a stock room may disappear completely. (It may have already; I have been in several shoe departments of major chains that were completely unstaffed. One felt as if in a museum of podiatry after closing hours).

In brief, what we face is yet another social schism in our society: the Marilyn of the nation and a new underclass who, like our shoe clerk, are Frodos without a Gandalf. It is small wonder that it is often easier to get your 10 1/2 EE wingtips from Houston.

The second reason for calling Houston is that you can sit or lie down while you wait. You can also watch TV, munch pop corn, read the New York Times or pay your bills. If worse comes to worse, you can just put your feet up and tap your fingers to the faint Muzak that fills the earpiece until Marilyn gets around to you. I prefer to avoid this alternative, not only because the music is bad but because I associate Muzak with being bored, hurt or afraid. If you hear Muzak you know you're in for trouble. You're in for a long wait, about to have your molar drilled or on the verge of crashing. Did you ever notice that they turn the Muzak off once the plane is safely airborne?)

The recumbent potential of toll-free transactions can not be underrated. For along with the Gong Show, Arthur Treacher's and Watergate, one of the most significant recent developments in American culture has been the growth in the length of lines. This phenomenon has not received the slightest scientific or journalistic attention, yet will probably change our lives more than the Panama Canal Treaty. It may, in fact, be the only thing that has happened of importance during the 1970s.

Take your basic airport for example. In order to fly to the west coast at supersonic speed one must now stand in an average of five lines: at the ticket counter, at the security gates, at the seat assignment desk, leaving the waiting area and with the stewardess. Compounding the frustration of these close quarters delays is the design of the modern airport itself. Where once one drove in a direct

fashion to the entrance of National Airport, today you are sent into a holding pattern of roads complete with landing instructions that near the complexity of those in the air. Once cleared for landing, you commence a trek by foot to your plane that may actually take longer than the time it took you to drive to the airport. Airlines are not alone in their schizophrenic attitude towards mobility. Washington's Dupont Circle subway station has an escalator that takes longer to complete its mission than it does to get to the next station on the subway. Curiously, the subway costs forty cents, the longer escalator ride is free.

Another place where the lines are lengthening is at the drug chains I visit. I know it is not an illusion because I have taken to counting unattended cash registers. At some time in our history, those cash registers were not surplus and as I stand waiting to check out my single tube of toothpaste behind fifteen other people I eye longingly those dusty mementoes of a by-gone era.

Something has happened. Part, as illustrated by the airport, is the increasing bureaucratization of America. Government agencies and subsidized activities such as airlines can afford to have hordes of personnel with no more important function than to tear out the second carbon. It is made to look efficient and orderly but in fact it is little more than an employment program for a nation that has far more of its citizens skilled in paperwork than it could possibly use in any sensible manner. Part of the price of this make-work is that you have to wait longer.

I once observed in Portland, Maine, a different approach. A voice came over the loudspeaker announcing that in five minutes the Air New England counter would be closed. Air New England is a feeder line flying miniscule prop jobs that still say "Happy Birthday America" on their fuselage. Minutes later the woman I had seen behind the counter appeared at the gate pushing a large cart containing all the luggage for the flight. She quickly loaded it aboard the plane. Returning to the gate, she checked the passengers through, followed the last passenger into the plane, looked to see that all the seat belts were fastened, then closed the hatch, pulled out two little flags and directed the pilot onto the runway. Meanwhile, the better part of the crowd at the airport was still waiting for Delta to be ready.

Contrast this experience with my first visit to Washington's spanking new courthouse. A physical improvement, carefully designed for the modern demands of law and order, the courthouse welcomed me into a small room already filled with half the DC police force, sagging under the weight of their modern anti-crime gadgetry, who like me just stood and waited until we could approach the overworked people behind the counter. Tens of millions of dollars and the line was just as long.

Away from government and its subsidized offspring, a contrary phenomenon has occurred which, however, has produced precisely the same result: you wait. In the drug chain of which I spoke, it is clear that some smart fellow at the top realized that he could cut labor costs by simply eliminating personnel and making customers stand in line. They will not walk out because they would just have to stand in line somewhere else. The peak load problem has been transferred to the consumer as the store simply gauges its personnel needs by the light hours of the day. This policy, increasingly apparent, may be one of the great hidden causes of chronic unemployment in this country. It certainly is a cause of poor service. And a surplus of cash registers.

So if I don't feel like making a day of it at the shopping center, or I can't find what I need at Schwartz's unconglomerated corner drug store, I simply call my distant friend and her wizard toll-free. Then I can wait where I want, doing what I want. God bless you, Marilyn, wherever you are.

- SAM SMITH

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